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SPEAKING IN TONGUES

CANADA'S NEW BILINGUALISM EMBRACES MANY LANGUAGES, CENSUS REVEALS

PAGES 3, 26 & 27

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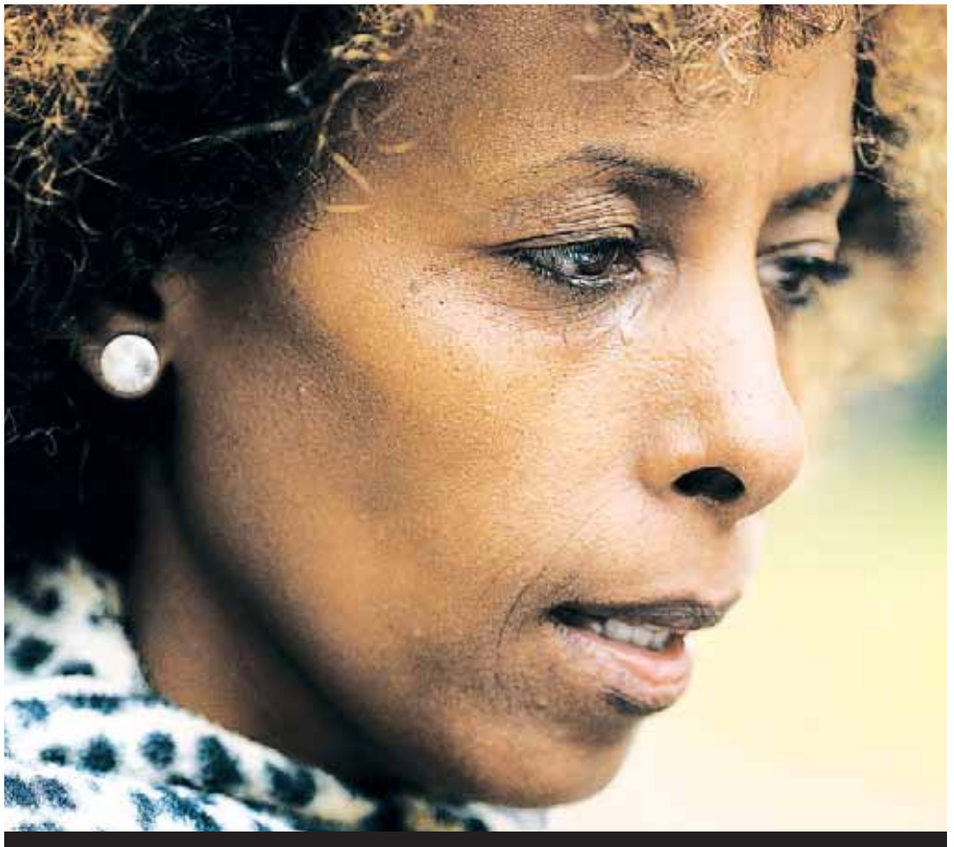

FRIENDS MOURN VICTIM

Saba Belay, 35, speaks about her friend Nighisti Semret, who was killed Tuesday morning in Cabbagetown when a man with a knife approached her from behind and stabbed her. Police said Wednesday investigators have not been able to contact any next of kin, despite contacting her employer and immigration officials. See story on page 4. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Transit debate revived again

Subway or LRT. TTC board approves new feasibility studies on underground Scarborough lines

In a move that will leave transit-starved Torontonians gnashing their teeth in frustration, the TTC has once again blown open the debate about whether the city should be building subways or LRTs.

Only moments after declaring that a downtown-relief subway line must be a priority transit project for Toronto, councillors on the TTC board ordered staff to produce two more feasibility studies on Scarborough subways by January.

TTC chair Karen Stintz and provincial officials insisted those studies would have no impact on the master agreement between the TTC, Metrolinx and the province that could go to council as early as next week. It's supposed to be the final word on a plan to use $8.1 billion in provincial funding to build four LRTs.

But some city councillors, caught off-guard by the request Wednesday for subway studies, suggested the commission is sending mixed signals, undermining its credibility with the province, council and the public.

TTC commissioner John Parker was out of the room speaking with reporters when the commission unanimously approved a motion by TTC vice-chair Glenn De Baeremaeker requesting a study on extending the Bloor-Danforth subway past the Scarborough Town Centre.

A subsequent motion by Coun. Peter Milczyn for another study of a Sheppard subway also passed.

The normally measured Parker said he hoped the Scarborough subway study wouldn't dilute the message that the city needs a downtown relief line.

He angrily confronted De Baeremaeker after the meeting, calling his request "a stupid, stupid, irresponsible thing." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rape comments have GOP on defensive again

Another Republican sparks furor after claiming pregnancy from sexual assault is 'something God intended'

PAGE 12

Homegrown glamour

Check out metronews.ca for photos from the hottest shows at Toronto Fashion Week, including Lucian Matis, at right

PAGES 53 & 54

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English mother tongue for most in metro T.O.: Census

Statistics Canada. 43.3% in census metropolitan area have mother tongue other than one of Canada's official languages, data shows

Despite its reputation as an immigration-fuelled, multi-tongued mosaic community, English is still the majority language in the metropolitan region of Toronto, new census data shows.

English was identified as the mother tongue for 55.4 per cent of people in the census metropolitan area of Toronto, Statistics Canada said Wednesday as it released new information on languages from the 2011 census. French, Canada's other official language, was cited by 1.3 per cent.

But a total of 43.3 per cent of the population of metro Toronto has a mother tongue other than one of Canada's official languages. That's a decrease from 43.6 per cent in the 2006 census.

According to the 2011 census, the top five non-official languages spoken in the metropolitan area of Toronto: One of the Chinese languages (8.1 per cent); Italian (3.1 per cent); Punjabi (2.9 per cent); Tagalog (Filipino) (2.3 per cent); and Spanish (2.2 per cent). Five years ago, the census reported the top five other languages spoken were one of the Chinese languages, Italian, Punjabi, Spanish and Portuguese.

Statistics Canada defines "mother tongue" as the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood at the time the census was taken in May 2011. The census also documented languages spoken at home and knowledge of Canada's official languages.

Statistics Canada noted a change in the response patterns for some of the mother-tongue data for the 2011 census. Previously, language questions were asked only on what was known as the long form census, which went to just 20 per cent of the population. Last year, the government did away with the long form questionnaire and put the language question on the census that went to all Canadians.

As a result of the change in methodology, Statistics Canada reported that Canadians appear to have been less inclined than in previous years to report languages other than French or English as their only mother tongue — and also more inclined to list multiple languages as their mother tongue and the language used most often at home.

Kazim Rizei, left, Soonjin Choi, right, William Garcia, second left, and Katie Yu practise English and Korean at a language exchange at the Rivoli Restaurant in Toronto on Tuesday. Although English remains the majority language in the metropolitan region of Toronto, 43.3 per cent of the population of metro Toronto has a mother tongue other than one of Canada's official languages, according to Statistics Canada. For more on language exchange programs and the recent census findings, see pages 26-27. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM /THE CANADIAN PRESS

In the census metropolitan area of Toronto, a total of 163 languages were identified.

Statistics Canada uses the term census metropolitan area to describe any area with a population of at least 100,000, where the urban core of that area has at least 50,000 people. Census metropolitan areas are often different from municipal boundaries and take into account the growing impact of suburban areas on Canada's largest cities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gridlock 'crisis' growing

With Mississauga's population continuing to swell and a gridlock "crisis" growing along with it, city councillors were put in a frenzy Wednesday by a staff report on the city's transportation needs.

"We're willing to take that density," Councillor Nando Iannicca said, addressing the province's high expectations for population growth in Peel.

"But you're building our GO Train stations, right? We know this is where growth belongs, but we have to say to the province: 'Help me help you.'"

That was the theme as councillors questioned how Toronto could get $8.4 billion of the $9.5 billion already allocated as part of Metrolinx's first wave of the $50-billion strategy planned for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area over 25 years, while Mississauga waits for the crumbs.

Mississauga is putting together a proposal for a LRT line along its main interior artery, Hurontario St., that will run from the lake north into Brampton. Congestion along Hurontario and the highways that circle Mississauga — the 401, 427, 403 and QEW — needs to be eased, warned councillors.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Transit revamp

City council needs Union Station reno updates: AG

City council should be getting better information on the progress of renovating Union Station, a $665-million job that has been running behind schedule, the city's auditor general says.

An audit of the multi-year project shows it was six months behind schedule as of March 31.

In an interview, Auditor General Jeff Griffiths said he's confident the contractor can make up the lost time between now and the 2016 completion date. His overriding concern is that council should be getting better updates on the work, which began in December 2009.

Griffiths' report recommends that specific reports be issued as to whether the job is on time and on budget. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Wilfrid Laurier University
York University, Schulich

Report. Police suicides higher than line-of-duty deaths, ombudsman says

Badly-needed changes that would help traumatized provincial police officers cope with operational stress injuries are getting the "bureaucratic brush-off" from the Ontario Provincial Police and the government, Ontario's ombudsman charged Wednesday. They're failing to take action to help those officers, leading to tragic results, said ombudsman Andre Marin.

Since 1989, 23 active and retired OPP members have killed themselves — two more than were killed in the line of duty, he said after releasing a 150-page report on the issue.

Cops battle with depression, anxiety, nightmares, addictions and post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as a culture that tells them they should "suck it up," Marin said.

They're also fighting an outdated bureaucratic system that doesn't even keep statistics on how many OPP officers are suffering from these conditions, he said. "To call the way they deal with operational stress injury as a shoestring operation would be insulting to shoestrings."

Ontario Ombudsman Andre Marin
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

When he provided the OPP and the government with a list of his recommendations five weeks ago, he got an "ostrich-like" reaction, Marin said.

The government was "indifferent," while the OPP dragged its heels, saying they will respond to the recommendations after further study.

"What we've heard from the OPP is a lot of claptrap and drivel, and very little action," he said. "That I find that very disconcerting."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Casino debate. Lobbyists may face $25,000 fines

Toronto's lobbyist registrar has concerns two prominent casino lobbyists may have violated by-laws governing their conduct in the hours before Councillor Ana Bailao was charged with impaired driving.

The two lobbyists from Sussex Strategy Group have been hired by MGM to sell the idea of a Toronto casino to councillors. If found guilty, Jamie Besner and Kim Wright could each face up to a $25,000 fine. At issue is whether bylaws that prohibit lobbying at a charity event and improper councillor-lobbyist relationships were broken.

But much more appears to be at stake than whether Besner and Wright — both of whom deny any wrongdoing — broke a municipal bylaw the night of Oct. 15. Those at the centre of the casino debate firestorm say the climate at city hall harkens back to the days of the scandal, where lobbyists lurked in every hallway and "inappropriately close relationships" were formed between elected officials and the people paid to win their vote.

"City business should not be conducted on junkets and in lounges," said councillor Gord Perks, referring to the fact numerous casino lobbyists — including Besner — took part in the mayor's Chicago trade mission last month.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Human trafficking

Police searching for fourth suspect

Police are searching for a fourth suspect in connection with a human trafficking ring that police believe turned two teenaged girls from a group home northwest of Toronto into prostitutes who worked on Sherbourne Street. Police have been investigating since September and have already charged two men in their early 20s and a 16-year-old girl with human trafficking and related offences. Alberto Enrique Vazquez, 21, of Toronto, is wanted on charges including two counts of procuring a person to become a prostitute, two counts of trafficking in persons and two counts of living on the avails of prostitution. JESSICA SMITH/METRO

Alberto Enrique Vazquez

A passerby stops by a small memorial with flowers and notes in the Cabbagetown laneway where Nighisti Semret was killed Tuesday night. Police are asking anyone with information to contact police at 416-808-7400 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 416-222-TIPS. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Victim 'didn't deserve this'

Refugee. Nighisti Semret, stabbed to death Tuesday, was saving to bring her family to Canada

The victim of a deadly Cabbagetown stabbing Tuesday morning was an Eritrean refugee determined to bring her family to Canada, according to a co-worker for the cleaning company she worked for.

Nighisti Semret, 55, was on her way home from an overnight shift at the Delta Chelsea hotel early Tuesday morning, when a man with a knife approached her from behind and stabbed her. Witnesses say she was stabbed at least 10 times with a long serrated blade as the suspect cursed violently. One man attacked the suspect with an umbrella, causing him to flee.

Toronto police Det. Sgt. Gary Giroux told a news conference Wednesday that investigators have not been able to contact any next of kin, despite contacting her employer and immigration officials. Friends said Semret had lived in a quiet women's rooming house on Winchester St. since moving to Toronto two years ago.

Frida De Paz worked with Semret at Andorra Building Maintenance, which contracts out to the hotel. De Paz said Semret — who also went by 'Nicki' — was a mother of four who had been saving to bring her children and husband to Toronto.

"She was like a lot of our workers, she came to start a life," De Paz said, fighting back tears.

Nighisti Semret

"She was very strong. She was focused on helping her family to come here. She was vibrant, feisty in a good way," said De Paz, adding Semret never shied away from hard work.

De Paz said Semret, who lived in the vicinity of the attack, had not mentioned any trouble. "She was very professional. She wouldn't open up about her personal life," she said.

Saba Belay, 35, who met Semret when she first moved to Toronto, said Semret, whose parents died when she was very young, refused to allow anyone to visit her at the rooming house where she slept in a cramped 12-by-12 room and shared a kitchen and bathroom with another tenant.

"It was so difficult," said Belay, recalling the news Wednesday morning that her friend had been murdered. "I can't do anything now for her."

Joan Bell, who also lived in the rooming house, said Semret was known for her cooking.

"Nicki would give you the shirt off her back if she could," she added. "She didn't deserve this." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A note at the memorial for Semret.
COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Suspect said to be white male

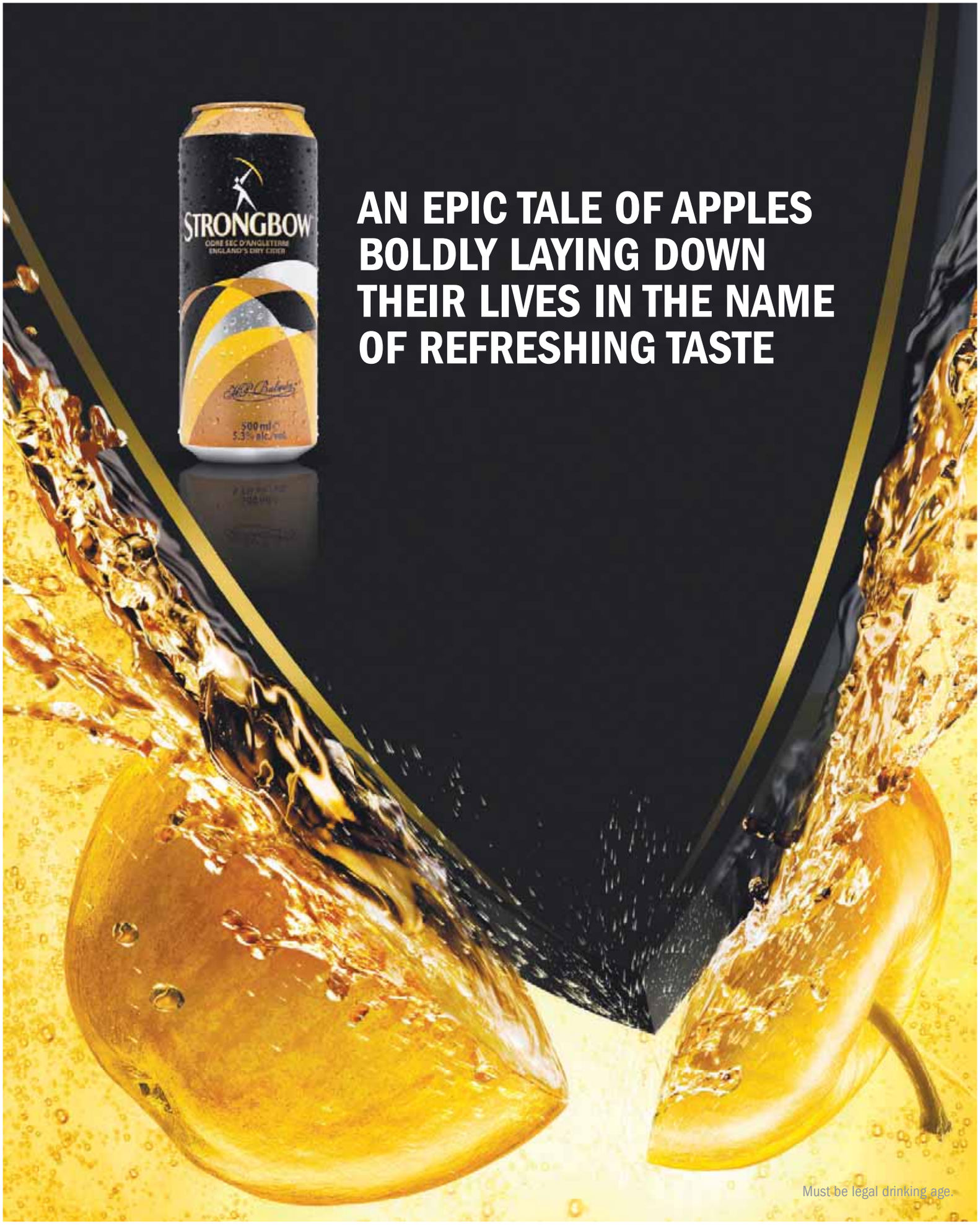
Det. Gary Giroux said Wednesday that police believe Semret's killer "lives, frequents and is known to the Cabbagetown and Regent Park area." He said the same person may have panhandled or snatched purses in the area because it is unlikely the suspect would escalate to stabbing without prior incidents.

"Someone in that particular area knows who this person is," said Giroux, who added that police are talking to local homeless shelters.

Giroux said it was possible the attack was random and there wasn't any evidence to suggest the suspect and victim knew each other.

The suspect is described as a white male, between five-foot-ten and six-foot-two, 150 to 200 lbs. with a medium build. He was wearing a dark, long coat with buttons and a white scarf or garment around his neck, as well as a dark hat.

Officers at 51 Division will set up a community vehicle near the stabbing site, at Ontario and Winchester Sts., where anyone with information can speak with investigators. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE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Toronto native is 'Law School Husslin' for AIDS research

Another classic.
28-year-old lawyer boasts money, success and 'big Cohibas' in latest rap video

Bay Street lawyer Mike Lickver on the set of his video for Law School Husslin' 3. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mike Lickver capped his odyssey from law school to articling to being hired at a big downtown law firm by making a rap video about the journey.

The Toronto native penned Law School Husslin 3, in which he boasts "money taller than Big Bird" and "big Cohibas like Castro." He also shot a glossy, six-minute short featuring a Lamborghini, Bridle Path mansion and bikini babes.

Earlier this month, the 28-year-old premiered the flick and performed the track at the legal community's annual AIDS fundraiser at KoolHaus, wearing camouflage pants and a hoodie.

The video was shot in New York, Miami and Toronto during Lickver's three-month break before starting work at Bennett Jones as a securities, mergers and acquisitions specialist.

It cost less than $5,000, thanks to corporate sponsors and pro bono work on the tune, which is available on iTunes and Amazon, with proceeds going to Canfar, the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research.

While Lickver's previous university-era videos lauded husslin' — hip-hop parlance for overcoming obstacles — in the context of tuition, studying and professors, the trilogy finale crows about making it to the major leagues.

"We made it through the struggle of law school, through the struggle of articling and now we're here and we're kind of blowing the glamorous lawyer lifestyle out of proportion and saying 'We did it, its time to celebrate,' " said Lickver of the video, which co-stars law school buddy Jesse Mighton, who landed in the corporate restructuring group at Goodmans.

Given Bay Street's conservative rep, it's not the sort of debut one would expect of first-year associates.

"People tend to think because we work long hours that individuality isn't something that is viewed as a good thing, but I think it's quite the contrary," said Hugo Alves, a partner at Bennett who mentored Lickver.

"You want people who have outside interests and who are well-rounded, who are going to be fun to work with, because you're spending a long time with them."

The new video wasn't surprising since the memo introducing Lickver when he began articling at Bennett last year mentioned previous shorts he'd done for talent shows at the University of Western Ontario while pursing joint MBA and law degrees.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lickver's lyricism

No hip-hop newbie, the Richmond Hill-raised Lickver rhymed and recorded with pals in his teens.

- **Discography.** Other Lickver tracks include Law School Husslin, MBA Forever and Law School Husslin 2: The Final Chapter.
- **Check out the lyrical stylings of lawyer Michael Lickver in Law School Husslin 3 at metronews.ca**

Tales of one city

History app tells Toronto's story

A new smartphone app could have Torontonians in the mood for a history lesson leaving their old, dusty encyclopedias on the shelves.

Toronto in Time — a free Apple iOS and Android app launched Wednesday — is an interactive collection of historical sites, anecdotes and photos that tells the city's story over the years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U of T chair

Professor flagged for self-plagiarism

The chair of the physiology department at the University of Toronto's medical school, Prof. Stephen Matthews, committed "self-plagiarism" in a 2005 report, an offence that amounts to a "severe abuse of the scientific publishing system," according to the journal that published the article. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

McBrayer smiles for Toronto

Jack McBrayer, a.k.a. Kenneth of 30 Rock fame, brought his southern charm to Toronto Wednesday, stopping by MuchMusic's NEW.MUSIC. LIVE. to chat about his role in the upcoming Disney animated film Wreck-It Ralph, which opens Nov. 2. COURTESY MUCHMUSIC

Urban Umbrellas will add style to construction sites

Designed in New York and elegant enough for Paris, the Urban Umbrella's statuesque silhouette is coming to the sidewalks of Toronto.

On Thursday, Ryerson University will unveil the scaffolding around its future Student Learning Centre at Yonge and Gould streets, but this is no ordinary plywood box.

The Umbrella has completely reconceived the unsightly pedestrian protection built over sidewalks during construction projects.

Its high, spindly archways are airy and open, letting in light through the translucent roof during the day and via LED lights at night. The tunnel looks more like a series of patio umbrellas than a roof to stop falling bricks.

"No one has tried to make something that looks good and feels good before," said lead engineer Sarrah Khan, a Sarnia native who co-founded the company in New York six months ago.

Urban Umbrella started as an entry in a New York design competition two years ago. It won, and has been used in several small projects in the city since, but the real opportunity for Khan and her partners Andres Cortes and Scott Wagner came north of the border.

Designed in New York and elegant enough for Paris, the Urban Umbrella's statuesque silhouette is coming to the sidewalks of Toronto. On Thursday, Ryerson University will unveil the scaffolding around its future Student Learning Centre at Yonge and Gould streets. COURTESY JAMES EWING

Here, hundreds of towers built in the coming years will each need a sidewalk shelter for up to three years.

"Toronto is changing from a provincial city to a world-class metropolis," Khan said.

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4367 Steeles Ave. W
149C Ravel Rd.
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Leslie Center
OAKVILLE
1027 Speers Rd., Unit 22
478 Dundas St. W, Unit 7
OSHAWA
Taunton Harmony Plaza
1053 Simcoe St. N, Unit 4B
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Pickering Power Centre
Pickering Town Centre
611 Kingston Rd.
RICHMOND HILL
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1480 Major Mackenzie Dr. E
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2555 Victoria Park Ave.
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660 Eglinton Ave., Unit 104
3151 Yonge St.
808 York Mills Rd., Unit 15-17
2400 Eglinton Ave. W
2900 Warden Ave.
130 King St. W. Unit CW15
3401 Dufferin St., Unit 108
1 Yorkdale Rd., Unit 180
1 Dundas St. W, Unit 2010
220 Yonge St., Unit H014
112-10 Dundas St. E
2901 Bayview Ave., Unit 128A
329 Parliament St.
200 Bay St., Unit UC – 132B
2248 Bloor St. W
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TEDX: MY LITTLE PONYCORN GAME

In Part 4 of our five-part series leading up to the fourth TEDx (Technology, Entertainment and Design) conference in Toronto, Metro talks to Torontonian **Cassandra Creighton**, and her dad, **Ryan Henson Creighton**, about their international gaming sensation, Sissy's Magical Ponycorn Adventure

CONTRIBUTED/PAUL HILLIER

As a game, it's simple: Release, rescue or win five ponycorns (a unicorn-pony mix) and pop them into coloured jars. But what really launched Sissy's Magical Ponycorn Adventure into international stardom last year was the tender age of its co-creator, Cassandra Creighton. Just five years old, Cassie voiced and drew the Adventure with her game-developer dad, Ryan Henson Creighton. On Friday, Cassie will be in the spotlight again, as one of TEDx's youngest-ever speakers.

What is it that has made Sissy's Magical Ponycorn Adventure so popular?

Ryan: Cassie's little voice is endearing and infectious. The game is a pure strain of little-girl cutesiness and authenticity. Often when TV shows feature young characters, they're voiced by adults, and the artifice is obvious.

What was the impact of Ponycorns on your business (Untold Entertainment, a game-development studio)?

Ryan: It's difficult to tell whether the economy is picking up or we're experiencing the Ponycorn Effect, but work is steadier this year. I've been invited to speak at international conferences, and it's been a little easier to have conversations with potential partners when they say, "Have you made anything we've heard of?"

What will you be talking about at TEDx?

Ryan and Cassie: We're telling the story of how we made the Ponycorns game together, and I (Ryan) will be making a case for raising our kids to be creators, instead of consumers.

That sounds like a mission.

Ryan: It is, although it isn't mine alone. There's a movement that says schools were created out of the industrial revolution so we had to have our kids sitting in rows, dressing uniformly, acting uniformly, because when they grew up they'd go to work in factories where they'd dress uniformly and act uniformly.

Now factories aren't our reality anymore. We need to be teaching kids to create, to program, at a much earlier age. Even technology such as digital textbooks with animated graphics are still teaching kids to consume technology. We should be teaching them to create that technology.

Does each of you have a hero or heroine?

Ryan: Jim Henson (creator of The Muppets), both for his creative legacy and for the way, I've been told by people who worked with him, he made everyone on his set — from the Muppet performers down to the production assistants and interns — feel like a million bucks.
Cassie: God, because he can do stuff humans can't do — like make people.

Are you going to make another game?

Cassie: Yes. But I don't know what it is yet.

KATHY ULLYOTT/FOR METRO

TEDx Toronto

Ryan Henson Creighton and Cassandra Creighton are among 17 featured speakers at Friday's TEDx Toronto conference. To learn more, go to tedxtoronto.com.

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Party in flux: Can the Liberal centre hold?

The days are numbered for most Liberal party leaders in Canada, with leadership elections looming across the country. At this time of change, Metro asked: Are Liberal parties dying or renewing? Who is going to determine their future?

JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

Stephen Taylor, National Citizens Coalition, Conservative

"I don't know if I want to be the one to predict the death of an institution that's had electoral success in 80 of the past 100 years, but I will say we are seeing a federal Liberal party and six provincial Liberal parties that are going through electing a leader right now. That doesn't happen, generally, with successful parties.

"There's an interesting thesis by (NDP strategist) Jamey Heath. He said that in Western democracies these centrist parties who don't really stand for bold issues, either on the left or the right, and just occupy the centre and rule as administrators, have given way to parties on the left and on the right.

"Canadians and citizens worldwide are more connected to the daily grind and the daily debate of what's happening in their respective legislatures, via 24-hour news, via social media, through the Internet.… It's a market that emphasizes and enables the politicians that are actually selling ideas, rather than just administration, just keeping the lights on."

Sheila Copps, former deputy prime minister, Liberal

"I find the spate of stories recently about the death of the Liberal party ironic, because when the Conservative party was reduced to two members it was never, ever assumed that they were in the graveyard. So there's a cyclical rhythm to politics and at the moment the Liberals are on the upswing.

"I think that their political enemies would like to see them die. The (federal) Liberals in the last election were reduced to third-party status and Stephen Harper uses every opportunity to go after the Liberals because he sees them as a long-term enemy."

Ian Capstick, NDP strategist, owner of Media Style

"Overall, Liberals have a grave problem in their own inability to define themselves from coast to coast to coast. I don't think it's going to happen from the provinces up. Fundamentally, over the course of Liberal history, it has always been the federal Liberal leader who has very much been the face, the brand and the ideological force behind the party.

"(Liberals) have political parties who are down a few leaders. I don't think we've got rats jumping from a sinking ship. We're seeing that natural ebb and flow of politics."

Marc Garneau, Liberal MP

"Support for Liberal values such as free speech, tolerance, evidence-based policymaking and a balanced approach between social justice and fiscal responsibility remains strong. As long as that is the case, Liberal parties will remain relevant."

Martha Hall-Findlay, former Liberal MP

"This is exactly how political parties renew themselves and grow. The leadership contest will encourage Liberals to come to grips with what the federal Liberal party really stands for, and why, and how to ensure that its message resonates with voters. And not everyone will agree, so expect some vigorous debate — that's what real renewal depends on."

Elizabeth May, Green party leader

"I never thought the Liberal party was anywhere near dead. I think it would be absurd, given the weight of Canadian history and the engagement of the Liberal party and Liberal-party adherents across Canada.

"It's naive to think that somehow the results of the 2011 election represent any kind of new equilibrium in Canadian politics. It has been in flux and has remained in flux — meaning there is room in Canadian politics for the Green party to grow and the parties that were hurt in 2011 to rebuild."

Peter Sherman, finance critic, Ontario PCs

"The way Liberals operate is usually about demonstrating what they want the public to perceive as their own largesse in creating projects — handing out money, picking winner companies and stimulating them, as opposed to sectors (of the economy) — and saying, 'Look how much we've invested.' It's taxpayer dollars, and I think people are onto them. Liberal parties operating more for their own benefit rather than for the benefit of the people seem to be falling like flies."

Answers were edited for clarity and length.

Liberals across the country are seeking renewal. Among them are, from left, Ontario MPP Deb Matthews, MP and federal leadership candidate Justin Trudeau; MP Stéphane Dion, Alberta MLAs Raj Sherman and Laurie Blakeman, Ontario MPP Kathleen Wynne, former MP and rumoured Ontario leadership contender Gerard Kennedy, and federal leadership candidate Deborah Coyne. PHOTO COLLAGE: DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

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Again! Comments on rape trip up one more Republican

Women shocked. A victim's pregnancy is 'something God intended,' says Indiana candidate

Another Republican running for the U.S. Senate has sparked outrage with comments about rape.

Richard Mourdock told a live television audience that when a woman becomes pregnant during a rape, it's "something God intended."

Mourdock, an Indiana Senate candidate, was asked during a debate Tuesday whether abortion should be allowed in cases of rape or incest.

"I struggled with it myself for a long time, but I came to realize that life is that gift from God," Mourdock said.

"And, I think, even when life begins in that horrible situation of rape, that it is something that God intended to happen."

Republican Richard Mourdock's comments on rape have angered women. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES/FILE

Mourdock explained after the debate that he did not believe God intended rape but that God is the only one who can create life.

"Are you trying to suggest somehow that God preordained rape, no I don't think that," Mourdock said.

"Anyone who would suggest that is just sick and twisted. No, that's not even close to what I said."

Mourdock has consistently opposed abortion, with the exception of cases where the mother's life is in danger.

Mourdock on Wednesday stood by his statement.

Women voters are key to this year's presidential race, and Republican challenger Mitt Romney has been drawn into this latest issue.

Romney campaign spokesperson Andrea Saul said Romney disagrees with Mourdock's opposition to abortion in cases of rape and incest, but she said Romney still supports Mourdock's Senate bid.

In August, Missouri Senate candidate Todd Akin caused an uproar when he said women's bodies have ways of preventing pregnancy in cases of what he called "legitimate rape."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mystery. Is human head linked to body in ditch?

Teenagers walk past the spot where a human head was found in Edmonton on Wednesday. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A human head was found Wednesday in an Edmonton alley.

Police are trying to find out if it belongs to a body found in a rural area east of the city on the weekend.

A source said a woman discovered the head.

Jesse Whitnack, a 30-year-old computer tech who lives in an apartment at the end of the alley, watched police from his balcony and zoomed in with his camera.

He said the head was on the ground. He could see hair, but he couldn't tell if it belonged to a man or a woman.

Police took the head away in a brown paper bag, Whitnack said.

RCMP are working with city police to determine whether the head is linked to remains found in a ditch near Ranfurly, about 120 kilometres east of Edmonton.

The Mounties have said little about that case, other than that a body was found on Saturday evening. An autopsy was performed Monday.

Local media have quoted area residents who said they had heard that the body had been decapitated and was found lying in a ditch next to a running pickup truck.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pessimism in Syria

UN backs it, but weekend truce plan appears doomed to fail

The United Nations Security Council gave unanimous backing Wednesday to a four-day truce proposed by the international mediator for Syria.

Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN-Arab League envoy, told the council the Syrian regime and some rebel groups promised to lay down their arms during the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, which begins Friday.

But President Bashar Assad's regime denied Wednesday it had committed to the plan.

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A man injured by an artillery shell in Aleppo is rushed to hospital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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L.A. bomb plot. Terrorist sentenced to 37 years

Algerian terrorist Ahmed Ressam was sentenced Wednesday to 37 years in prison for plotting to bomb Los Angeles International Airport at the turn of the new millennium.

Ressam, who had trained at al-Qaeda's training camps in Afghanistan, was arrested in December 1999 when a customs agent noticed that he appeared suspicious as he drove off a ferry from Canada onto Washington's Olympic Peninsula. A resulting search turned up a trunk full of explosives.

The Justice Department, which previously sought sentences of 35 years and of life in prison, recommended a life sentence again because of the mass murder Ressam intended to inflict. In those pre-Sept. 11, 2001 days, it was "a virtually unimaginable horror," Assistant U.S. Attorney Helen Brunner told the court.

Brunner also argued that Ressam continues to pose a threat, as evidenced by his recantation of prior co-operation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A vexing case

Ressam's case has been vexing because he started co-operating after he was convicted. Information he provided helped convict several terror suspects and contributed to the arrest of suspected Osama bin Laden lieutenant Abu Zubaydah.

Malnutrition

No jail for nurses who let U.S. teen drop to 28 lbs.

Two U.S. nurses have been sentenced to probation in the malnutrition death of a 14-year-old girl who had cerebral palsy and weighed 28 pounds when she died.

Mary Kilby and Kathryn Williams were sentenced in Ohio on Wednesday and will have to surrender their nursing licenses.

The two women had pleaded no contest to failing to provide for a functionally impaired child and had faced up to a year-and-a-half in prison. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Judge refuses to delay inquest into teen's death

Ashley Smith.

Government accused of trying to put a lid on disturbing jailhouse videos that document abuse of troubled teen

An inquest into the prison death of a deeply troubled teenager will be able to proceed after a judge on Wednesday rejected the federal government's last-ditch request for an emergency stay.

The decision came amid assertions prison authorities were simply trying to cover up the horrific treatment meted out to Ashley Smith that was captured on video.

In a ruling that took about an hour to decide, Divisional Court Justice Joan Lax dismissed the stay motion.

Correctional Service Canada asked for the emergency halt to the much-delayed inquest to give it time to get the courts to review a ruling by the presiding coroner that the videos should be public.

Videos

In arguing the stay, Correctional Service said the videos have not yet been put into evidence and so should stay out of the public eye until such time as that happens to avoid any tainting of the jury pool.

The videos at issue show, among other things, guards duct-taping Smith to an airplane seat, and forcibly injecting her with "chemical restraints" against her will.

Lawyer Julian Falconer, who speaks for Smith's family, accused the government of trying to put a lid on videos that document some of the abuse she suffered.

"I insist on Correctional Services being called an abuser," Falconer told Lax.

"This case is really about Correctional Service Canada taking all conceivable steps so that certain videos don't make it to the public record," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A video frame grab used as court evidence where it appears prison cell guards are doing a search on a pinned-down Ashley Smith. Smith, 19, of Moncton, N.B., choked to death in her cell in Kitchener, Ont. after repeated episodes of self-harm. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/FILE

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Tatarstan, Russia

Suspects, cops die in explosion

Russia's Interior Ministry says a security officer and two criminal suspects have died in a police sweep for suspected killers of a Muslim cleric in the province of Tatarstan. Police and security officers on Wednesday surrounded an apartment building, where two gunmen were holed up. One of suspects detonated explosives. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'The forgotten Holocaust'

Nazis' Roma victims recognized

Germany opened a long-awaited memorial Wednesday to the hundreds of thousands of Gypsies, or Roma, who were killed by the Nazis.

A further memorial is planned for victims of the Nazi program of euthanasia of the mentally ill and others deemed "unworthy of life." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Widow becomes Bosnia's first hijab-wearing mayor

Amra Babic, mayor of the Bosnian town of Visoko, in front of her election poster. The 43-year-old economist has blazed a trail in this war-scarred Balkan nation by becoming its first hijab-wearing mayor, and possibly the only one in Europe. AMEL EMRIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

And a first for Europe? Economist and single mother of three from the town of Visoko declares: 'I am the East and I am the West'

When Amra Babic walks down the streets of the central Bosnian town of Visoko wearing her Muslim headscarf, men sitting in outdoor cafes instantly rise from their chairs, fix their clothes and put out their cigarettes.

The respect is only natural: Babic is their new mayor.

The 43-year-old economist has blazed a trail in this war-scarred Balkan nation by becoming its first hijab-wearing mayor, and possibly the only one in Europe.

For Babic, the electoral triumph is proof that observance of Muslim tradition is compatible with Western democratic values. The wartime widow sees no contradiction in the influences that define her life.

"I am proud to be a Muslim and to be a European," she declares.

Babic decided to wear her headscarf after her husband was killed fighting in the Bosnian Army, and views it as "a human right." She says religion and hard work helped her overcome his death, raise their three boys alone and pursue a career. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

You go, girl

By Bosnian law, at least 30 per cent of candidates in any election have to be women, but voters have been reluctant to give women a chance. Only five of the 185 mayors elected on Oct. 7 are women.

- **Signs of respect.** Election posters still up have been scrawled with vampire teeth, moustaches or spectacles; none of Babic's posters bear such graffiti. Older women stop in front of her pictures as if hypnotized by her determined blue eyes.

Senegal. Top journo jailed for homosexual acts, stabbing partner

A judge has sentenced a well-known Senegalese journalist to four years in prison for acts of homosexuality, illegal possession of arms and battery.

Tamsir Jupiter Ndiaye's lawyer said he is surprised by the court's decision and that it is not based on the rule of law. He said they plan to appeal.

Ndiaye was arrested on Oct. 10 after getting into a fight with his male partner. The court says that Ndiaye used a knife and stabbed his partner in the stomach. The court has sentenced Ndiaye's partner to two years in prison. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crimes of passion

Homosexuality is a criminal offence in many African countries. South Africa is a notable exception.

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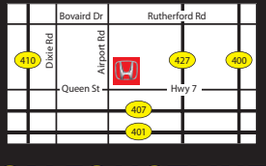

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HONDA

Message-in-a-bottle found eight years later overseas

Oceanic journey. Montreal-based writers and Irish recipient become instant celebrities

Charlaine Dalpe holds a photo of nine-year-old Oisin Millea in Montreal on Wednesday. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Back when she was a little girl, Charlaine Dalpe would hardly have imagined that her spontaneous decision to chuck a plastic bottle in the water would have someday made her a momentary international celebrity.

Years later, that extemporaneous childhood act has prompted 30 interview requests from media on different continents.

The story begins eight years ago when she and friend Claudia Garneau were visiting a picturesque Quebec clifftop town in the Gaspe region.

The Montreal girls tossed the plastic bottle, with a message inside, into the Gulf of the St. Lawrence to see if anyone would find it. The bottle was found last week on the shores of a small village in Ireland.

The message, written in French, was tossed into the sea in 2004 while the pair, who were 12 at the time, were on vacation.

It asked the finder to contact them. And he has, with the help of a French teacher.

So have many other people.

Dalpe says that since the bottle was found by Oisin Millea, a nine-year-old Irish boy, the pair have been inundated by about 30 requests for interviews — mostly from media in Ireland.

The young boy has also become a local celebrity in his small village of Passage East.

"It became a really big story and he's become well known because of it," Dalpe added.

The tale of the travelling bottle also got the attention of Tourism Ireland and the two women, now 20, will be getting free airfare and a hotel next summer.

Dalpe says she hopes to begin planning their vacation when Tourism Ireland hands over the trip tickets in the coming weeks.

"We never thought the bottle would be found and that we would get a trip out of it," Dalpe said.

The two women had better luck than Garneau's mother. She had lived in the Gaspe region and attempted the same thing when she was young.

"She tried several times when she was small to launch a bottle to see where it would go," Dalpe said, "but she never got any news."

Or a trip to Ireland.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper photobombs Ottawa wedding

Prime Minister Stephen Harper poses for a photo with groom Patrick Sullivan and bride Jocelyne Potvin as they were being photographed off Rockcliffe Parkway in Ottawa on Saturday. LAURA KELLY PHOTOGRAPHY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

When a three-car motorcade rolled into the park where Laura Kelly was taking wedding photos of a young Ottawa couple over the weekend, one of the groomsmen joked that it was Lady Gaga.

But the celebrity who rolled down the window and wished his best to the newlyweds was none other than Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Kelly says Harper then became, for a few minutes, the 16th member of the wedding party, posing for photos with the bride and groom — 23-year-olds Jocelyn and Patrick Sullivan of Ottawa.

She says it's been a goal of hers to get her photo taken with a celebrity, and now it's "mission accomplished."

Kelly says it didn't sink in until the reception later that day how rare it was to have Harper in a wedding shoot.

The 22-year-old photographer says the prime minister became "the talk of the reception."

I didn't have to tell anybody to smile when I was taking photos of them," Kelly said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Waterways. Tories scrub nature from online FAQ

The word "environment" was suddenly deleted from a federal government website that described Conservative proposals to change the law protecting Canada's navigable waterways.

The Navigable Waters Protection Act is being altered as part of the government's latest omnibus budget bill.

The proposed changes would make the Act apply to fewer bodies of water than before, in a bid to make the system more efficient.

The opposition parties say the move will further weaken environmental protection — and they say the proof is on the web.

The NDP pointed out on Tuesday that the government's own "Frequently Asked Questions" about the Act posted on the Internet stated that the changes reflected the government's "ongoing concern towards maintaining the safety of public navigation and the environment."

It also referred to companies potentially constructing "dangerous works in navigable waters."

But by Wednesday, that section of the Transport Canada website had been altered to remove the reference to the environment and the dangerous works. NDP Leader Tom Mulcair called the deletion "Orwellian."

"They made their website disappear. ... They want to make the environment disappear. We're going to stand up and protect the environment," Mulcair said during a House of Commons speech on the omnibus budget bill, C-45.

Transport Minister Denis Lebel said the original content on the website was a mistake.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man detained in slaying of woman, two children

Sacramento tragedy. Victim's brother-in-law, 19, is only suspect in attack U.S. police describe as 'stab, slashing and slicing'

Sacramento County sheriff's deputies on Wednesday arrested the 19-year-old brother of a man whose wife and two young children were found brutally slain inside their suburban Sacramento home a day earlier.

The department's spokesman, Sgt. Jason Ramos, said "something bad was brewing for some time" between the suspect and his extended family.

The suspect, Grigoriy Bukhantsov, was taken into custody early Wednesday morning and was being booked at Sacramento County Jail.

Quoted

"Everything we've learned throughout the course of the investigation suggests he just didn't have a good relationship with family members."

Sgt. Jason Ramos
Sacramento County spokesperson

Ramos said he was the only suspect in the Tuesday killing of the woman, her two-year-old son and three-year-old daughter.

A six-month-old baby survived the attack and was taken from the Rancho Cordova duplex unharmed.

The husband found the bodies when he returned home Tuesday afternoon, then ran to a neighbour, who called police. Authorities have not identified the husband, but they say he is not a suspect and has been co-operating, despite being distraught.

California Department of Motor Vehicle records show Aleksey Bukhantsov was the registered owner of a 2005 Chrysler minivan that had been stolen from the family's home after the attack. Authorities had been searching for the vehicle and spotted it at about 2 a.m. Wednesday in the parking lot of a Denny's restaurant in Rocklin, a suburb to the northeast of the state capital.

They found the suspect sleeping inside a booth in the restaurant with a plate of chicken-fried steak with gravy. He was then taken in for an interview.

"Based on that interview as well as what we have learned throughout the investigation since yesterday afternoon, we have arrested him for the murders of all three victims," Ramos said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pipeline deal a frightening prospect for B.C. protesters

A demonstrator holds up a prop representing 'dirty oil' during a Halloween-themed anti-pipeline protest march to B.C. Premier Christy Clark's office in Vancouver, on Wednesday. Kinder Morgan wants to twin its pipeline through B.C., while Enbridge wants to build an 1,100-kilometre dual pipeline from Alberta to the B.C. coast. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

$2.3M in luggage

Money laundering case against U.S. pilots dismissed

Two U.S. pilots who were arrested in Panama on suspicion of money laundering headed home Wednesday after authorities decided there is no case against them, their employer said. Carl Moody and Kenneth Chonoski were arrested after landing in Panama in May last year. Inspectors said they found $2.3 million in the bags of one of their passengers, a Honduran traveller. The pilots were never charged with any crime. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. consulate

Tunisian arrested for attack in Libya

The Tunisian government has confirmed it has arrested a 28-year-old Tunisian reportedly linked to the U.S. consulate attack in Libya.

Tunisian Interior Ministry spokesman Tarrouch Khaled said Wednesday that Ali Harzi was in custody in Tunis.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Johnny's Secret about Sugar ...

that everyone should know about!

In the small town of Alesund in Norway, many of the residents began taking a supplement that made them fitter. It all began when a customer of Johnny Pettersen, a local health food store owner, asked him for advice on how to reduce cravings.

"I gave my customer the Zuccarin tablets because mulberry extract is known to stabilize blood sugar levels after meals – which is an important part of reducing cravings. It worked very well.

As time went by, I started noticing that my customers were getting fitter. This made me curious, so I studied the effect of mulberry, in depth. Surely enough, because of the active ingredient DNJ, mulberry leaves lead to lower insulin secretion, and this does wonders for the waistline. Less insulin allows the body to store fewer calories as fat and also to start using stored body fat as fuel. This is why my customers were getting fitter.

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Johnny P. Norway

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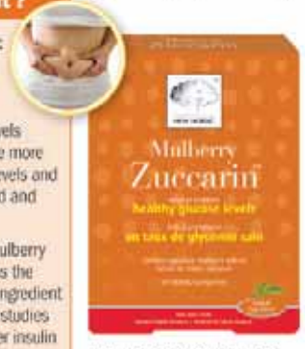

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*J Agric Food Chem. 2007. 55. 5809.T.Kimura et al, "Mulberry powder enriched with 1-DNJ supresses postprandial blood glucose in humans."

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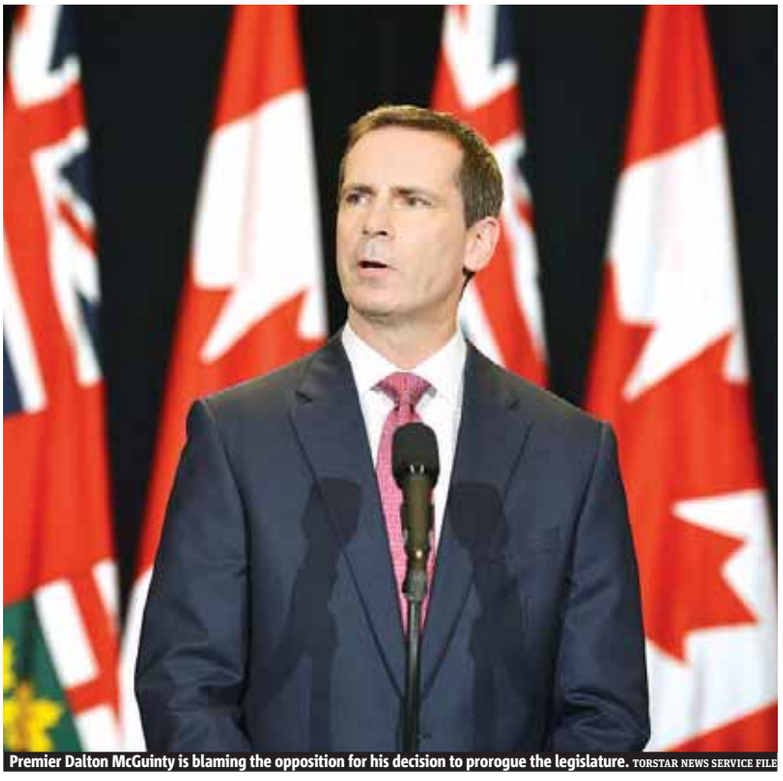
McGuinty dismisses contempt motion

Opposition furious. Conservative Peter Shurman unsure how premier can call the motion 'phoney'


Premier Dalton McGuinty is blaming the opposition for his decision to prorogue the legislature. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Ontario's opposition parties reacted with disbelief Wednesday after Premier Dalton McGuinty dismissed a contempt motion against his minority government as "phoney" and blamed them for his decision to prorogue the legislature.

"They consumed an entire week with a spurious, phoney contempt motion rather than do the people's business," McGuinty said when asked why he shut down all legislative business until at least February 2013.

The Liberals were about to face a second contempt motion for not releasing all the documents on cancelled gas plants in Oakville and Mississauga when McGuinty abruptly resigned and prorogued the legislature w. 15, killing the contempt debate and finance committee hearings into the issue scheduled to begin this week.

"I don't know how the premier has the gall to stand up in front of a crowd and say that there's anything phoney about a motion that deals with taking $1 billion and, in something bordering on fraud, spends it to win political points and ultimately seats," said Progressive Conservative finance critic Peter Shurman.

The Liberals say their decisions to cancel the energy projects they had planned will cost taxpayers $230 million, but the Tories and NDP estimate the real cost will be at least triple that figure.

McGuinty also blamed the Opposition for delaying legislative business by repeatedly ringing the division bells, something they haven't done in months, and flatly denied he prorogued to avoid the contempt motions and more fallout over the gas plants. "I prorogued because the place was becoming overheated and because the public interest demanded that we find a way to freeze public sector wages, and it became obvious that is not something we're going to be able to do through the legislature," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"They allowed themselves to be consumed by that phoney contempt motion"

Premier Dalton McGuinty

Leadership

Premier says he sees no reason to go

McGuinty has rejected a suggestion he should leave office now and appoint an interim Liberal leader who could recall the legislature.

"Why would I do that?" asked McGuinty. "It's my responsibility to continue to provide leadership both to my party and to our government, and to do what I think is the right thing in the circumstances, and that's what I'll continue to do." He said it would be up to his successor, who will be chosen at a leadership convention Jan. 26, to decide when to recall the legislature.

The premier has told all would-be leadership candidates they must resign their cabinet posts by Nov. 23 before declaring their candidacy. McGuinty also said he was "delighted" deputy premier Dwight Duncan had decided not to run, which means he can stay in cabinet as finance minister. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Duncan's hat not in ring

Finance Minister Dwight Duncan has decided against running for the leadership of the Ontario Liberal party.

Duncan says he won't make a bid to succeed Premier Dalton McGuinty and won't run for re-election.

But he says he will support his friend, former cabinet minister Sandra Pupatello, if she decides to throw her hat in the ring.

Duncan says most of the legwork on the next budget will be done by Jan. 27, then he'll hand off the more contentious decisions to the next finance minister, who could deliver a budget at the end of March.

McGuinty made a surprise announcement last week that he was stepping down after 16 years as Liberal leader and nine as premier.

Several other potential leadership candidates are said to be considering a bid, such as Municipal Affairs Minister Kathleen Wynne and former MP Gerrard Kennedy, who lost to McGuinty in 1996 by just 140 votes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dwight Duncan
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

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Monthly payment is $5.95 per $1,000 of amount financed. Example: $20,000 at 0% for 84 months (2,100 weekly payments) is $119.00 per month/$27.46 per week. Cost of borrowing is $0. Freight & PDI ($1,495/$1,495/$1,495/$1,495/$1,495) and applicable taxes and PPSA, dealer fees and OMVIC fee are extra. Insurance, cable TV and other options are available at extra cost. Dealer may sell for less. Offer ends January 2, 2013. ‡‡0% for 84 months (2,100 weekly payments) on approved credit. Monthly payment is $5.95 per $1,000 of amount financed. Example: $20,000 at 0% for 84 months (2,100 weekly payments) is $119.00 per month/$27.46 per week. Cost of borrowing is $0. Freight & PDI ($1,495/$1,495/$1,495/$1,495/$1,495) and applicable taxes and PPSA, dealer fees and OMVIC fee are extra. Insurance, cable TV and other options are available at extra cost. Dealer may sell for less. Offer ends January 2, 2013. 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Dealers are free to set individual prices. †To qualify for GMCL's Cash for Clunkers incentive, you must: (1) turn in a 2006 or older MY vehicle that is in running condition and has been registered and properly insured in your name for the last 3 months (2) turn in a 2006 or older MY vehicle that is in running condition and has been registered under a small business name for the last 3 months. GMCL will provide eligible consumers with a manufacturer to consumer incentive (tax inclusive) to be used towards the purchase/finance/lease of a new eligible 2012 or 2013 MY Chevrolet Colorado, GMC Canyon, Chevrolet Silverado, GMC Sierra, or Chevrolet Avalanche delivered between October 2, 2012 and January 2, 2013. Incentive ranges from $1500 to $3,000, depending on model purchased. Incentive may not be combined with certain other offers. By participating in the Cash For Clunkers program you will not be eligible for any trade-in value for your vehicle. 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See your participating GM dealer for additional program conditions and details. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate program in whole or in part at any time without notice.

Waves, brought by Hurricane Sandy, crash on a house in the Caribbean Terrace neighbourhood in eastern Kingston, Jamaica on Wednesday. COLLIN REID/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hurricane Sandy pounds Jamaica

A direct hit. Kingston feels the wrath of fierce storm while Cuba and Florida put on alert

Hurricane Sandy carved into the populous southeastern coast of Jamaica on Wednesday, stranding travellers and hammering shantytowns with howling winds and rains as it roared across the island on a track that would take it on to Cuba and possibly Florida.

At least one person was killed in nearby Haiti after being swept away by a rushing river.

It was the first direct hit by the eye of a hurricane on Jamaica since Hurricane Gilbert in 1988, and fearful authorities closed the island's international airports and police ordered 48-hour curfews in major towns to keep people off the streets and deter looting. Cruise ships changed their itineraries to avoid the storm, which made landfall Wednesday afternoon roughly five miles (8 kilometres) east of the capital of Kingston.

Dangerous flash floods and mudslides were a threat for the tropical island of roughly 2.7 million inhabitants, especially in mountainous areas, Jamaica's meteorological service said.

The 18th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season was expected to pass over eastern Cuba early Thursday, missing the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, where pretrial hearings were being held for a suspect in the deadly 2000 attack on the destroyer USS Cole off Yemen.

Forecasters at the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said tropical storm conditions were possible along the southeastern Florida coast, the Upper Keys and Florida Bay by Friday morning. A tropical storm watch was in effect for the area, the centre said.

In southwestern Haiti, a woman died in the town of Camp Perrin after she was swept away by a river she was trying to cross, said Marie Alta Jean-Baptiste, head of the country's civil protection office. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"For now I'm just hoping the glass windows don't shatter from the winds."

Business traveller Cris Hopkinson of Toronto reacts to the powerful storm which hit Jamaica on Wednesday

Haiti

Businessman investigated for role in kidnapping

Police detectives are investigating the son of one of Haiti's prominent families for his alleged role at the centre of a kidnapping ring, authorities said Wednesday.

Businessman Clifford Brandt was locked up Monday on suspicion of involvement in kidnapping two children of another family in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

Brandt's lawyer, Delatour Calixte denied his client participated in a kidnapping and suggested Brandt may have organized their "removal" in a family dispute. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vatican City. Bishop who denied Holocaust expelled

A traditionalist group of breakaway Catholics on Wednesday expelled a Holocaust-denying bishop whose views sparked a major Vatican crisis in 2009.

The Society of St. Pius X said its governing council expelled Bishop Richard Williamson because he ignored a deadline to "declare his submission'' to its authority and had called for the society's superior to resign.

A spokesman for the group said Williamson's comments about the Holocaust were part of the reason for his expulsion.

In a 2009 interview with Swedish TV, Williamson denied that any Jews were killed in Nazi gas chambers.

The comments earned him a criminal prosecution in Germany, where Holocaust denial is a crime, and caused great embarrassment to German-born Pope Benedict XVI, who had lifted Williamson's excommunication from the Church on the day the interview was broadcast.

But Williamson also angered the group's superiors by posting attacks against them on a blog that was "full of crude ideas'' and by performing sacraments despite being forbidden to do so, said the spokesman, Andreas Steiner. "The third thing, which was key, was that he always criticized the talks with Rome (the Vatican),'' Steiner said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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for MEN and for WOMEN

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We recognize that both men and women experience androgenic alopecia (AGA, or male / female pattern baldness) and have made some improvements to the original formulation based on the latest science to address their specific needs. You will notice that we now have additional complementary (Health Canada Approved) health claims on each product.

How does Bio-Fen® PLUS work?

We are bringing you two new products with **double** the number of capsules and **triple** the number of health claims for men and **four times** the number of health claims for women.

As in the previous formulation, the fenugreek seed extract in both new formulas reduces excess blood lipid levels (hyperlipidemia). Fenugreek contains β-sitosterol, an active plant sterol, which has been shown to inhibit 5-alpha-reductase activity – the enzyme responsible for converting excess testosterone to *DHT*(which is the primary molecule that causes hair loss). The SDG (secoisolariciresinol diglucoside) from flax lignans in both formulas also decreases excess cholesterol - the building block of testosterone. Based on new research on the rate of metabolism of SDG in flax lignans (8-12 hours on average), the dosage in both products has been revised from once a day to twice a day for optimum results.

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As before, the saw palmetto extract inhibits the enzyme 5-alpha reductase, and this action slows down the conversion of testosterone to dihydrotestosterone (or DHT) – the overabundance of which causes the miniaturization of hair follicles. This activity of the saw palmetto also helps to relieve the urinary symptoms of mild to moderate BPH for men.

The saw palmetto that originally was an extract standardized to 45% free fatty acids, esters, and sterols while the new formula is a 4:1 extract to support the BPH claim. The product still contains these molecules for hair loss, but they are now at proprietary amounts based on our research so that the competition cannot duplicate our formula.

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men will also help to:

- ***Relieve the urologic symptoms associated with mild to moderate benign prostatic hyperplasia - BPH*** *(e.g. weak urine flow, incomplete voiding, frequent daytime and night time urination).*
- ***Reduce elevated blood lipid levels / hyperlipidemia.***

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The women's formula is almost the same as the men's formula. The mechanisms and results for the women formula is the same. The only difference is it contains silicon and iron instead of saw palmetto. Silicon has been shown to contribute to hair shaft strength and thus healthy hair growth. It also contains iron which helps prevent iron deficiency. A number of studies have related sub-clinical iron deficiency in women to diffuse hair loss/alopecia.

The increased amount of SDG and other revisions to the regulations allow us to make some additional health claims for *Bio-Fen® Plus for Women.*

Bio-Fen® Plus for Women will also help to:

- ***Reduce elevated blood lipid levels/hyperlipidemia***
- ***Prevent iron deficiency.***
- ***Metabolize carbohydrates, fats and proteins.***

How long must I use Bio-Fen® Plus?

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men capsules are usually effective at stopping hair loss within the first two months. However, since healthy hair grows only about 1 cm each month, it may take up to three months before you notice that hair growth is increased or the rate of hair loss is decreased. Anyone experiencing new growth should see it within four months. In some people the original pigmentation may come back. Once you stop completely your hair growth pattern will slowly go back to the point where you started. However, some people may be able to go with a lower maintenance dose.

What is the quality of Bio-Fen® Plus for Men?

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men is manufactured in Canada according to quality assurance specifications called Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). This ensures that the ingredients are tested for their level of quality, potency & purity, prior to production and the finished product prior to sale.

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SPEAKING IN SEVERAL TONGUES

2011 census reveals more Canadians are speaking at least two languages at home compared to 2006 census; Punjabi and Tagalog are surging, while French and aboriginal languages are on the decline

Bilingualism is surging in Canada, but not necessarily in the country's two official languages.

Statistics Canada released the last batch of data from the 2011 census on Wednesday, this time focusing on about 200 languages that make up the linguistic portrait of the country.

The data suggest that multiculturalism is not simply an abstract concept to describe a motley collection of diverse communities.

Rather, it is a reality for a growing number of families, even within the confines of their own homes.

The census shows that 17.5 per cent of the population — or 5.8 million individuals — speaks at least two languages at home. That's up from the 14.2 per cent of multilingual households counted in the 2006 census, and an increase of 1.3 million people.

Of those 5.8 million, most of them speak English plus an immigrant language such as Punjabi or Mandarin. Less than a quarter — 1,387,190, to be precise — are using both French and English at home.

And aboriginal languages are in outright decline, with usage shrinking 1.7 per cent since 2006 — a loss of 3,620 people despite a concerted effort by many First Nations to revive their culture and language.

"Yes, we see a diversity, but what we see clearly is ... we have all these transition phases where English and French are also spoken at home in addition to non-official languages," said Jean-Pierre Corbeil, the agency's lead analyst on the languages part of the census.

"This doesn't happen only outside Quebec but in Quebec as well."

Corbeil warned, however, that the data likely underestimate the increase in diversity over the past few years. That's because Statistics Canada had to change the way it collects language data after Prime Minister Stephen Harper scrapped the long-form census in 2010.

Wednesday's information came from the mandatory short form that went to every household in Canada. In the past, language was in the long form that went to 20 per cent of households, and was framed in a different context.

The 2011 census numbers suggest that language diversity has been increasing at just half the rate as noted in the 2006 census, but data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada suggest the pace of change is at least the same, Corbeil said.

The census shows that the most common immigrant language in Canada was Punjabi. When Punjabi speakers are grouped together with others who speak a closely related language such as Urdu, their numbers total 1,180,000.

Tagalog, the language of Filipinos, saw the biggest surge, growing by 64 per cent since the last census was taken in 2006.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bojan Djuricic and his wife, Naomi Sutorius-Lavoie, read a Serbian book to their daughter, Mila Sutorius-Djuricic, in Toronto on Oct. 17. Djuricic will be taught to speak in English, French and Serbian. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

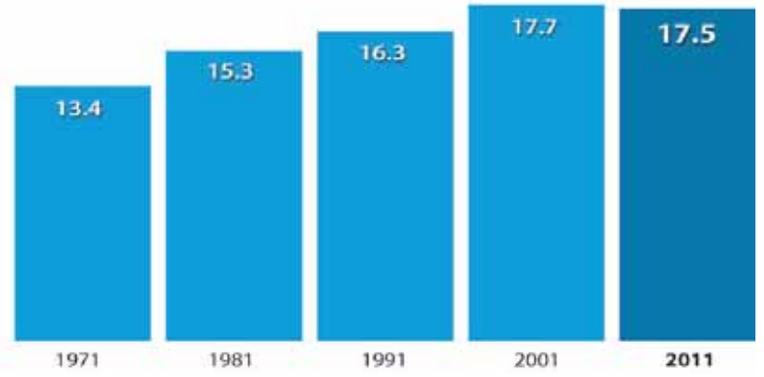
Census highlights

Selected highlights from Wednesday's Statistics Canada release of 2011 census data, focused on language:

- One in five Canadians — some 6.6 million people — reported speaking a language other than English or French at home; 191 distinct languages were among those identified as either a mother tongue or a home language.
- Nearly 10 million people said they could conduct a conversation in French, up from 9.6 million five years earlier; however, as a proportion of the population, those able to speak French slipped to 30.1 per cent, down from 30.7 per cent in 2006.
- The number of people who spoke Mandarin at home grew by almost 51 per cent from 2006 to 2011. Arabic grew by 47 per cent; Hindi by 44 per cent; the Creole languages by 42 per cent.
- In Toronto, Canada's most populous city, 1.8 million people — about 32.2 per cent of the population — reported speaking an immigrant language at home.
- 5.8 million people, about 17.5 per cent of the population, reported speaking at least two languages at home, up from 14.2 per cent in 2006.

BILINGUALISM RATES

A look at the proportion of Canadians who reported being able to conduct a conversation in both official languages:

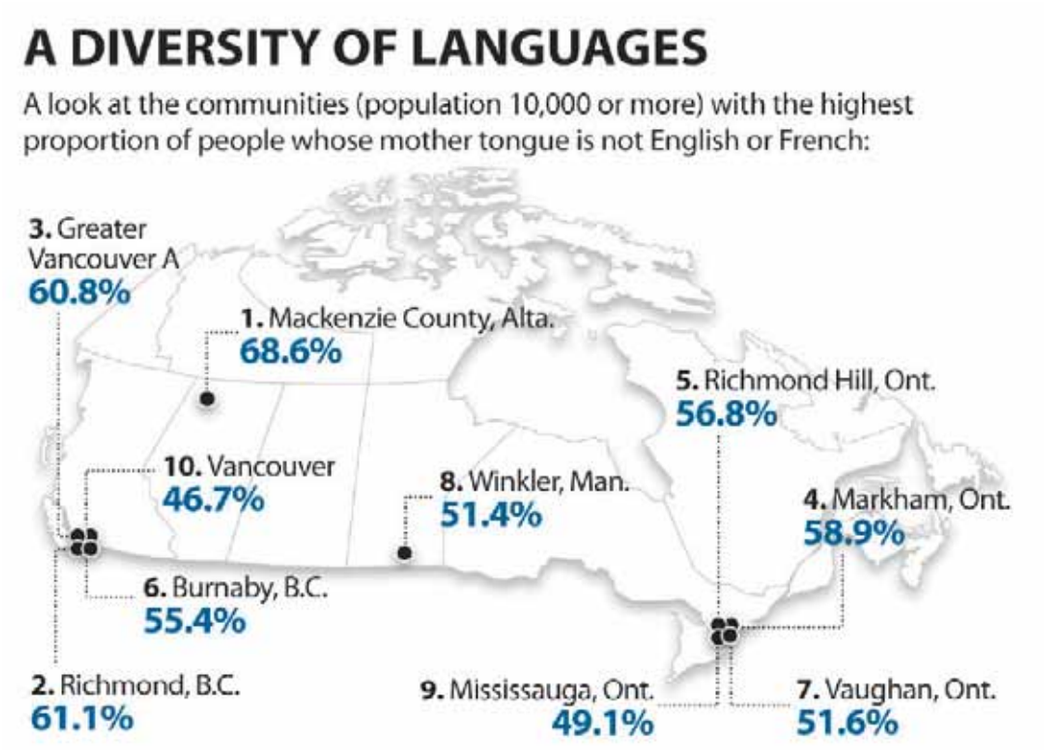


TOP IMMIGRANT LANGUAGES

A look at the top non-official languages spoken most often at home:

LANGUAGE	2011 POPULATION	% CHANGE FROM 2006
Punjabi	394,495	25.2
Chinese*	338,795	-6.6
Cantonese	328,855	3.0
Spanish	325,260	32.4
Tagalog	278,640	64.1
Arabic	270,155	46.8
Mandarin	226,065	50.4
Italian	184,175	-5.2
Urdu	164,650	28.8
German	158,035	12.6
Persian	144,010	32.5
Russian	128,675	27.3

*Refers to persons who reported 'Chinese' without specifying further



From left, Kelly Kim, Peter P. and Leon Song practise French and English at a language exchange at the Rivoli restaurant in Toronto on Oct. 10. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Multiculturalism on display in language-sharing groups

Not even the relentless throb of a hip-hop beat can drown out the sounds of a typical Tuesday night upstairs at Toronto's Rivoli nightclub.

The top floor of the bustling bar echoes each week with the staccato clack of German consonants, the melodic lilt of Japanese vowels and persistent peals of laughter as more than a hundred aspiring language students struggle to master their new tongues.

The students — from all walks of life and ranging in age from early 20s to late 70s — are members of Toronto Babel, an informal language exchange program that has been giving the city's international community a chance to speak in new and native tongues alike for the past three years.

The din of different languages is loudest in Toronto, where 1.8 million people reported speaking an immigrant language at home, according to fresh 2011 census numbers released Wednesday. Vancouver ranked a distant second with 711,515 people reporting an at-home preference for a language other than English or French, Statistics Canada reported.

Cantonese and Punjabi ranked highest on the list of languages in Toronto, along with other Chinese languages, Urdu, Tamil and Tagalog, which originates in the Philippines.

Eduardo Costa, 39, was recruited in the group's earliest days after advertising online to find an English conversation partner. The initial group of a dozen people quickly began to grow, and Costa found the people he met there began to fill the void left by the friends and relatives he left behind in his home country of Brazil.

"When you immigrate, you lose your family, your friends are still there," he says. "This group became my first new family in Canada."

Smaller Babel groups have sprung up in Ottawa and Kitchener, Ont., Babel co-leader Anna Shalaginova said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

En français

Immersion still sought after

Immersion options in Canada's second official language are broader than ever.

The original programs have been expanded to accommodate a wider range of students, while a new program specifically for kids of francophone families is now in high demand.

The idea has broad national appeal, according to figures from advocacy group Canadian Parents for French, which says more than 30 per cent of students in every province outside of Quebec were enrolled in some form of French-as-a-second-language program in the 2010-11 school year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

According to Statistics Canada ...

1 Up/down. More Canadians speaking French

A sign on the wall of Stephane Wild's restaurant in Winnipeg on Oct. 5. Nearly 10 million people reported being able to speak French in 2011, up slightly from 2006 but down as a proportion of the Canadian population. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

2 Fading out. Just a few native languages still going strong

A stop sign in Mohawk is seen on the Tyendinaga First Nation reserve east of Belleville, Ont., on Oct. 11. Of the more than 60 registered First Nation languages, only a relative handful — such as Cree, Ojibway, Oji-Cree and Dene — remain strong and viable. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

3 Climbing in numbers. Tagalog-speaking population growing

Nearly 279,000 people reported speaking Philippine-based Tagalog most often at home, compared with 170,000 in 2006, an increase of 64 per cent — the largest increase of all the reported languages. JEFF HODSON/METRO IN VANCOUVER

IMMIGRANT LANGUAGES BY CITY

The top non-official languages in Canada's largest metropolitan areas:

TORONTO	%	MONTREAL	%	VANCOUVER	%
Cantonese	8.8	Arabic	17.2	Punjabi	17.7
Punjabi	8.0	Spanish	15.2	Cantonese	16.0
Chinese*	7.0	Italian	8.1	Chinese*	12.2
Urdu	5.9	Chinese*	5.7	Mandarin	11.8
Tamil	5.7	Creole	5.4	Tagalog	6.7

CALGARY	%	EDMONTON	%	OTTAWA-GATINEAU	%
Punjabi	12.1	Tagalog	11.8	Arabic	20.4
Tagalog	10.4	Punjabi	10.9	Spanish	8.1
Chinese*	9.2	Chinese*	8.9	Chinese*	7.5
Spanish	7.9	Cantonese	6.8	Mandarin	4.4
Cantonese	7.4	Spanish	6.5	Somali	3.8

*Refers to persons who reported 'Chinese' without specifying further

Hamas pummels Israel with rocket fire

Gaza war. Israeli officials claim militants were emboldened by visit of foreign leader

Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip fired dozens of rockets and mortar shells into southern Israel on Wednesday in the heaviest bombardment on the area in months, drawing ominous Israeli threats of retaliation and dangers of escalation.

The violence came a day after a landmark visit to Gaza by the emir of Qatar. Israeli officials suggested the visit, the first by a head of state to the Hamas-ruled territory, emboldened the militant group.

The rocket fire began shortly after the emir left Gaza late Tuesday and continued through the night. Israeli officials said more than 80 projectiles were fired, and Hamas claimed responsibility for many of the attacks.

Israel responded with a series of airstrikes on rocket launchers, killing two Palestinian militants, according to Gaza medical officials. Two other Palestinians were killed Tuesday.

Hostilities in Gaza have been simmering for weeks, with militants sporadically firing rockets into Israel and the Israeli air force responding with airstrikes.

Hamas officials said the emir urged Hamas to do everything possible to avoid violence with Israel. Israel's foreign minister, Avigdor Lieberman, suggested the visit had the opposite effect, and was instead "clear support for terror." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Daily life

"We can stay at home and just hear the noise of the war."

Tamara Cohen, resident of the border community of Ein Habesor

Smoke trails of a rocket fired by Palestinian militants from the Gaza Strip toward Israel on Wednesday. ARIEL SCHALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nuclear ultimatum

Iran weighs nuclear standoff

Iran is weighing a more confrontational strategy at possible renewed nuclear talks with world powers, threatening to boost uranium enrichment levels unless the West makes concessions to ease sanctions.

Such a gambit — outlined by senior Iranian officials in interviews this week — could push Iran's nuclear program far closer to the "red line" set by the Israeli Prime Minister for possible military options.

But it also suggests that economic pressures and diplomacy have pushed Iran to seek relief from sanctions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Casualties of war

Eight more killed in Iraqi insurgency

Iraqi insurgents launched a new wave of attacks targeting security forces and others across the country on Wednesday, killing eight people including a 7-year-old child, police and health officials said.

The insurgents attacked via drive-by shootings, snipers and roadside bombs, police said.

The attacks came a day after insurgents attacked Shiite neighbourhoods in Baghdad with car bombs and mortar rounds, killing nine people and wounding 26. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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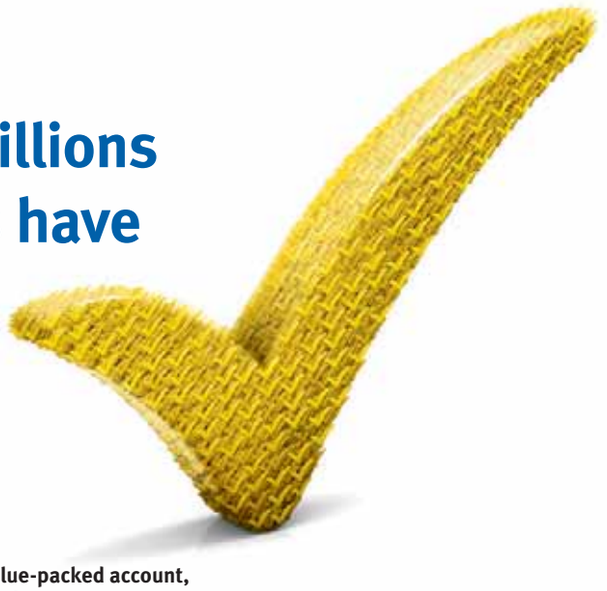

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Jordan faces down terror, Arab Spring

The foiling of a planned al-Qaida terror plot in Jordan underscores a new subplot in the story of the Arab Spring: Things are heating up for King Abdullah II, a Western-oriented monarch who has run a business-friendly, pragmatic monarchy with some trappings of democracy.

Jordan, a key U.S. ally that sits at a strategic crossroads between neighbouring Syria, Iraq, the Palestinian territories, Israel and Saudi Arabia, has so far weathered 22 months of street protests calling for a wider public say in politics.

But this week's announcement that Jordanian authorities had thwarted an al-Qaida plan to attack shopping malls and Western diplomatic missions in the country has raised fears that extremists could take advantage of growing calls for change to foment violence.

The king also has been working overtime to fend off a host of domestic challenges, including a Muslim Brotherhood boycott of parliamentary elections, increasing opposition from his traditional Bedouin allies and an inability to keep the Syrian civil war from spilling over the border.

King Abdullah II in Jordan's royal palace. YOUSEF ALLAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

So far, Abdullah has largely maintained control, partly by relinquishing some of his powers to parliament and amending the country's 60-year-old constitution. His Western-trained security forces have been able to keep protests from getting out of hand. And most in the opposition remain loyal to the king, pressing for reforms but not his removal.

The stakes are high: Abdullah is a close friend of the United States and has been at the forefront in its war on terrorism, including in Afghanistan. Jordan serves as a buffer zone to Saudi Arabia and to Israel, a friend under a peace treaty signed in 1994. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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South Carolina

A public amnesty with a bang

Sheriffs in five South Carolina counties are offering people a chance to turn in explosives, no questions asked.

Officials have set aside this week as Explosives Amnesty Week.

People can call to have any explosives, ammunition, weapons, bomb materials or military ordnance removed from their property.

Certified bomb technicians will respond to remove and destroy the hazardous materials. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Macedonia travel

Coin smuggler sentenced

An American who was caught trying to leave Macedonia with more than 200 ancient coins has been convicted and given a two-year suspended sentence.

In Wednesday's ruling, the court also banned 45-year-old Candace Lynn Dunlap, a nurse from Meridian, Alabama, from returning to Macedonia for 10 years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine. Secrecy of president's home stokes pre-election controversy

When Ukraine's president opened up his home to TV cameras, he presented a cozy place with a small office just big enough for his grandchildren to play in. But his critics point to strong evidence he actually lives in a luxurious, marble-columned mansion with a golf course, helipad and ostrich enclosure.

The reported grandeur is becoming a campaign issue in a country quickly getting fed up with widespread corruption. Critics have painted Viktor Yanukovych's as a leader who basks in splendor while his main political opponent, former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko, is locked up in prison on charges the West has called politically motivated.

Yanukovych has refused to answer questions about the house or the vast park where it sits but an opposition activist recently broke into the property and took several photographs of an opulent palace guarded by heavy security. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Victor Yanukovych's main goal is not to be president but the No.1 Oligarch in Ukraine."

Political commentator Vitaly Portnikov responding to news of the Ukrainian president's lavish estate.

Winnipeg. Police chief won't retract comments

Winnipeg's new police chief is standing by his comments on religion after telling a Christian magazine that prayer could reduce crime in the Manitoba capital.

The article led to complaints that Clunis was mixing religion and public office. Clunis explained at a media briefing on Wednesday that he was speaking to a Christian publication and targeting his message to that audience. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trump pitches $5M proposal to Obama

Real estate mogul Donald Trump offered on Wednesday to contribute $5 million to a charity of Barack Obama's choice if the president releases his college and passport records. SLAVEN VLASIC/GETTY IMAGES/FILE

Election overture. Real estate magnate challenges president to divulge passport and college records

Donald Trump has a deal for President Barack Obama — if he releases his college and passport records, the real estate mogul will contribute $5 million to a charity of Obama's choice.

Trump made the announcement Wednesday in a video posted to his Twitter account. He called Obama "the least transparent president in the history of this country."

Trump has endorsed Republican Mitt Romney in the presidential race. Trump drew broad publicity last year for questioning whether Obama was born in the U.S. and eligible to be president, forcing Obama to release his long-form birth certificate. In the video, Trump said he was proud to have pushed Obama to release the birth certificate or "whatever it may be." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When good defeats evil

Civic workers prepare to immerse an idol of Hindu goddess Durga brought by devotees into the Brahmaputra River Wednesday in Gauhati, India. The immersion of idols marks the end of the five-day festival that commemorates the slaying of a demon king by lion-riding, 10-armed goddess Durga, marking the triumph of good over evil. ANUPAM NATH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vancouver. A bold tattoo stunt with a loop-de-loop

Nothing says family bonding more than letting your brother give you a tattoo while riding a wooden roller-coaster.

Modern-day daredevils Burnaby Q. Orbax and Sweet Pepper Klopek, of the touring freak show Monsters of Schlock, did just that Wednesday on one of B.C.'s most iconic landmarks.

"Having never tattooed anybody and having access to the oldest running wooden roller-coaster in Canada, we decided (Wednesday) would be the best day to achieve that dream," Orbax said before the stunt at Playland at the PNE.

Orbax held the tattoo machine, while the ink cap was duct-taped to Klopek's hands.

After the second round in the coaster, the brothers high-fived and hugged. The end result: a smiley face with a really long tongue.

"He did a good job. I'm proud of him," Sweet Pepper Klopek said of his new tattoo on his upper right knee. "Who thought you could do that eh?"

The five-time Guinness World Record breakers are sure they can top this stunt next year. PHYLICIA TORREVILLA/METRO IN VANCOUVER

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Settlement

Watchdog reaches transborder deal with Air Canada

Canada's competition watchdog says it has protected consumers from fare increases and reduced choice on 14 transborder routes by reaching an agreement with Air Canada and its U.S. partner.

The deal, the Competition Bureau said Wednesday, will allow the airlines to co-operate on other routes where they don't hold a near-monopoly.

Under the agreement, Air Canada and its Star Alliance partner are prohibited from co-ordinating their prices and schedules on 14 busy routes that connect several large Canadian cities with several large U.S. cities.

The federal agency will appoint an independent monitor operating at the airlines's expense to ensure Air Canada and its partner United Continental comply with terms of the agreement.

The deal "will ensure that passengers do not face higher prices and less choice on high-demand routes between Canada and the U.S. resulting from the airlines' proposed joint venture and co-ordination agreements," interim Competition commissioner John Pecman stated Wednesday.

The bureau says studies by U.S. anti-trust authorities of similar route monopolies found that prices increased by 15 per cent when there has been little competitive choice. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Strike

Bristol workers returning to work

Employees at a Sudbury industry are heading back to work. Bristol Machine Works and United Steelworkers Local 2020 reached a tentative deal on Tuesday.

The 107 workers voted on Wednesday morning to accept the three-year deal and will return to work on Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Garth Drabinsky, seen in this file photo from August 2009, has been permitted to serve the remainder of his sentence at a halfway house in Toronto.

PAUL DWULIT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Disgraced mogul gets day parole

Hearing. In his first public statements since his company's collapse, Drabinsky repeatedly denied he intentionally committed fraud

Disgraced theatre impresario Garth Drabinsky has been granted day parole and is permitted to serve the remainder of his fraud sentence at a halfway house in Toronto, the Parole Board of Canada ruled Wednesday.

In coming to its decision, the two-member panel determined the 62-year-old former entertainment mogul would not pose an "undue risk" to public safety, but denied Drabinsky's application for full release, calling it "premature."

The ex-CEO of the now-defunct Livent Inc. — the company behind such hits as Phantom of the Opera — testified at the hearing for nearly three hours via video link from the Beaver Creek Institution in Gravenhurst, Ont.

He could be seen crying and hugging his wife and two children, who were at the prison to support him.

In 2009, Drabinsky and his longtime friend and business partner Myron Gottlieb were both convicted of two counts of fraud each for a book-cooking scheme that ultimately resulted in the demise of Livent.

The court ruled that the partners orchestrated a scheme involving the falsification of Livent's financial statements to lower its expenses. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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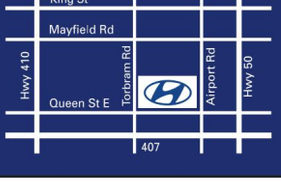

Sudan. Officials claim remains of missiles show Israel linked to attack

Sudan claimed Wednesday that Israeli airstrikes caused an explosion and fire at a military factory south of the capital, Khartoum, killing two people.

Minister of Information Ahmed Belal Osman told reporters that four aircraft missiles hit the Yarmouk Complex, setting off a huge blast that rocked the capital before dawn.

Belal referred to a similar 2009 attack on an arms convoy in the Red Sea province in eastern Sudan. The government then blamed this attack on Israel, who believes Sudan is a conduit for arms shipments through Egypt to Gaza's militant Hamas rulers, claiming the missile remains showed Israeli technology.

"We are now certain that this flagrant attack was authorized by the same state of Israel. The main purpose is to frustrate our military capabilities and stop any development there and ultimately weaken our national sovereignty," Belal said.

Belal said the complex only produces conventional weapons. He said his country may take the issue to the U.N. Security Council.

Israeli officials did not respond to requests for comment on the latest allegation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smugglers' corridor

Sudan was a major hub for al-Qaida militants and remains a corridor for weapon smugglers and African migrant traffickers.

- **Attacks.** In 2009, a convoy carrying weapons in northeastern Sudan was targeted from the air, killing dozens. It was widely believed that Israel carried out the attack, hitting a weapons shipment headed for Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip. Sudanese parliamentarians denied that weapons were transported in the area and claimed no knowledge of the cargo. Israel never confirmed or denied it was responsible for the attack.

Not exactly monkey business

Canadian tourists Alexandre Casias, centre back, and Emilie Vachon, not in photo, from Montreal, have their car raided by baboons at Millers Point on the outskirts of Cape Town, South Africa, Wednesday. SCHALK VAN ZUYDAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Oil-patch deals

Public opinion affects foreign-takeover decisions, minister says

Canada is a democracy and public opinion plays a role in the Conservative government's decisions on foreign takeovers, Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver said Wednesday.

Public sentiment is not a criteria listed in the Canada Investment Act but the Harper government appears to be wrestling with voter opinion as it applies the "net benefit" test to foreign takeover bids — especially by state-owned enterprises.

Oliver was asked directly if public opinion is one of the criteria for determining net benefit. "This is a democracy and the government takes into account the opinions of Canadians," Oliver responded. "Beyond that I have no comment."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said clearer new rules will be drafted in the wake of his government's weekend decision to reject a proposed takeover of Alberta's Progress Energy by Malaysian state-owned oil-and-gas company Petronas.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former Societe Generale trader Jerome Kerviel leaves his lawyer's office on Wednesday in Paris. He said he would continue his legal battle after the Paris appeals court upheld a sentence that requires him to spend three years in prison and pay back about $6.3 billion. REMY DE LA MAUVINIERE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris court upholds controversial decision against former trader

Societe Generale. Jerome Kerviel plans to appeal ruling that requires him to repay a whopping $6.3 billion

The Paris appeals court on Wednesday ordered former Societe Generale trader Jerome Kerviel to spend three years in prison and pay back 4.9 billion euros (about $6.3 billion) in damages for one of the biggest trading frauds in history.

The 35-year-old Kerviel, who never profited personally from his unauthorized trades, says he was a scapegoat for the bank and a victim of a financial system that runs on greed and profits.

He will appeal his case to the highest court. "I will continue to fight," he said in an interview with RTL radio. "I think the judgment is protecting Societe Generale."

He called on those in the banking industry, notably Societe Generale employees, to step forward and speak up about how the bank's managers knew about the trades.

Kerviel said he had thought the court might acquit him. "What happened today is a call for me to put a bullet in my head," he said, adding that he does "absolutely not" envision suicide. His lawyer, David Koubbi, called the verdict "absolutely lamentable."

A lower court convicted Kerviel in October 2010 of forgery, breach of trust and unauthorized computer use for covering up bets worth nearly 50 billion euros — more than the market value of the entire bank — in 2007 and 2008. By the time his trades were discovered in early 2008, when banks were sliding into a global crisis, he had amassed losses of almost five billion euros on those bets.

The sentence — a five-year prison term, with two years suspended, plus the payback of all the losses he incurred — shocked many in the French public. After a global financial crisis that many blamed on big banks, many believed Kerviel's claim that he was a victim of an unjust system.

The appeals court Wednesday upheld the full conviction and sentence. It did not send Kerviel directly to prison, leaving him free pending his decision on whether to appeal to the Court of Cassation.

Kerviel had sought an acquittal, saying the bank had turned a blind eye to his exorbitant trades as long as they made money. Prosecutors and the bank say that isn't true. Societe Generale lawyer Jean Veil said the verdict was "a great satisfaction." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I will continue to fight. I think the judgement is protecting Societe Generale."

Former trader Jerome Kerviel, in an interview with RTL radio

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Market Minute

DOLLAR 100.51¢ (-0.23¢)

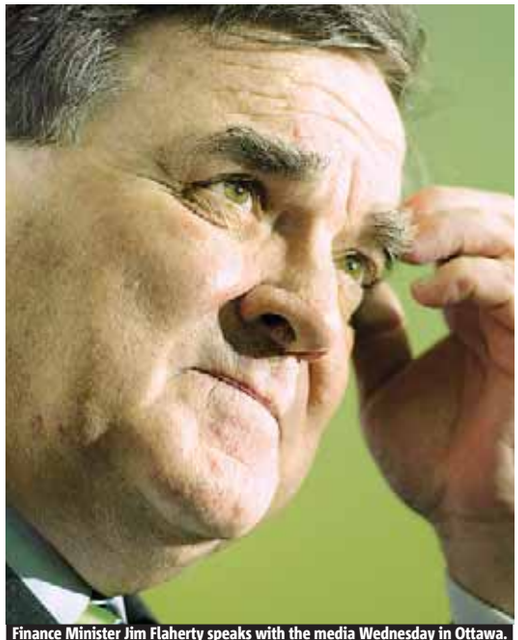
TSX 12,195.02 (-30.81)

OIL $85.73 US (-$0.94)

GOLD $1,701.60 US (-$7.80)

Natural gas: $3.45 US (-8.5¢)
Dow Jones: 13,077.34 (-25.19)

Ottawa cracks down on prepaid plastic



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty speaks with the media Wednesday in Ottawa. He announced that the federal government will more closely regulate the prepaid credit card market. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

New regulations. Card issuers will have to be transparent about fees and conditions

Ottawa is stepping in with new rules for the largely unregulated prepaid credit card market.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced Wednesday that in the future, issuers of prepaid cards will not be able to impose expiry dates and must be upfront about hidden fees and conditions.

The move is part of the government's expanding code of conduct measures to govern credit and debit transactions, that had previously not applied to the relatively new prepaid market.

"We have done a lot of regulation with respect to debit and credit cards. We haven't done much with respect to prepaid cards," Flaherty said.

While still a small segment of the market, prepaid plastic has become an option for consumers without conventional credit or debit cards, young adults, and for parents who want to introduce their children to using credit while limiting the risk of theft and over-spending.

But the sector has also faced criticism for exorbitant hidden fees that reduced their face value and fooled customers. These can include monthly or annual fees, maintenance costs, as well as ATM charges.

"In our view, it was inappropriate for financial institutions to have cards go dormant. For example, people would get cards as gifts for their birthdays or whatever, not realize that the $200 on the card would expire over a certain period of time," Flaherty said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"In our view, it was inappropriate for financial institutions to have cards go dormant."
Finance Minister Jim Flaherty

Canyon cam. Google's backpack-sized Trekker takes pics of iconic spots

Google and its street-view cameras already have taken users to narrow cobblestone alleys in Spain using a tricycle, inside the Smithsonian with a push cart and to British Columbia's snow-covered slopes by snowmobile.

The search giant now has brought its all-seeing eyes — mounted for the first time on a backpack — down into the Grand Canyon, showcasing the attraction's most popular hiking trails on the South Rim and other walkways.

It's the latest evolution in mapping technology for the company, which has used a rosette of cameras to photograph thousands of cities and towns in dozens of countries for its Street View feature. Internet users are transported virtually for a 360-degree view of locales they may have read about only in tourist books and seen in flat, 2-D images.

Google operations manager Steve Silverman walks with a backpack-sized camera called the Trekker on Monday along the Grand Canyon's Bright Angel Trail. RICK BOWMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Any of these sort of iconic, cultural, historical locations that are not accessible by road is where we want to go," said Ryan Falor, product manager at Google. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Competition

EU says Microsoft broke agreement over browsers

The European Union's executive arm formally accused Microsoft on Wednesday of failing to comply with a binding agreement to give customers a choice among Internet browsers. Microsoft said the matter was the "result of a technical error."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mobile ad growth

At last, good news for Facebook stock

Facebook shares posted their biggest single-day gain Wednesday since going public in May, jumping 19 per cent to close at $23.23 US after the social media company made inroads in mobile advertising and posted accelerating growth in overall ad revenue.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Summer babies have tough crawl to the top: Study

Do you have a summer birthday? It could be a speed bump on the way to the corner office. A new study from the University of British Columbia's business school finds that summer babies are less likely to be CEOs.

Researchers at the Sauder School of Business checked out the birth dates of 375 chief executive officers from S&P 500 companies between 1992 and 2009. They found that only about six per cent were born in June or July.

By contrast, people born in March and April represented more than 12 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively, of the sample.

It seems that summer babies have a tougher crawl to the top because of what researchers call the "birthdate effect." That refers to the way children are grouped by age in school.

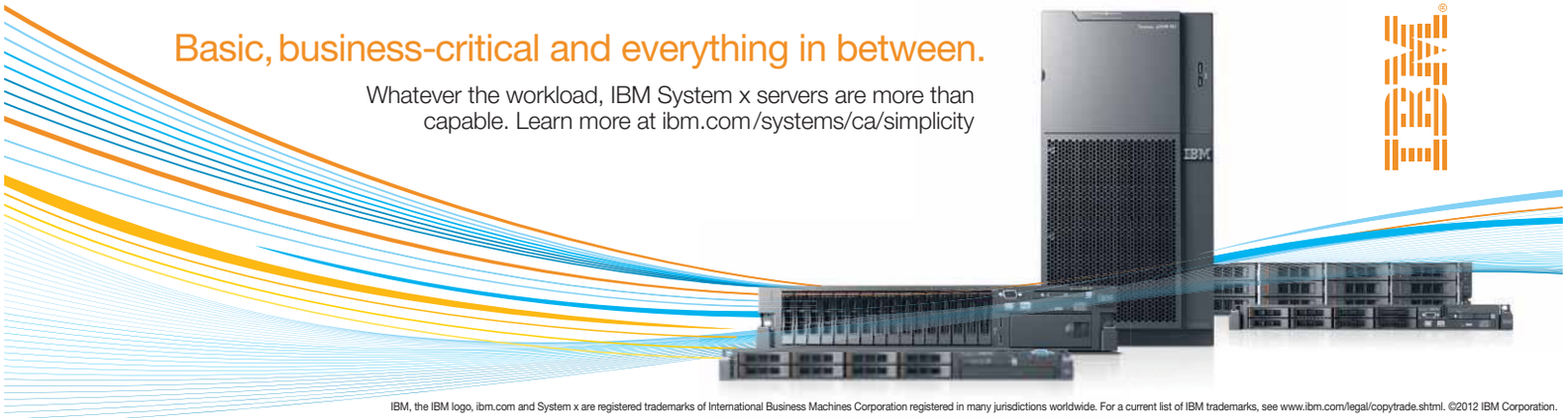
"It's amazing," said finance professor Maurice Levi, co-author of the study. "You're a 50- or 60-year-old CEO and it all goes back to when you started school, if you were the big guy in class or the little scrawny guy in the back corner."

In the U.S, cut-off dates for school admission fall between September and January. Levi and his team determined that those CEOs in the sample born between June and July were typically the youngest in their class. Those born in March and April were the oldest.

The same would be true in Canada, where children born in January and December of the same year would be in the same class, Levi said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ISTOCK



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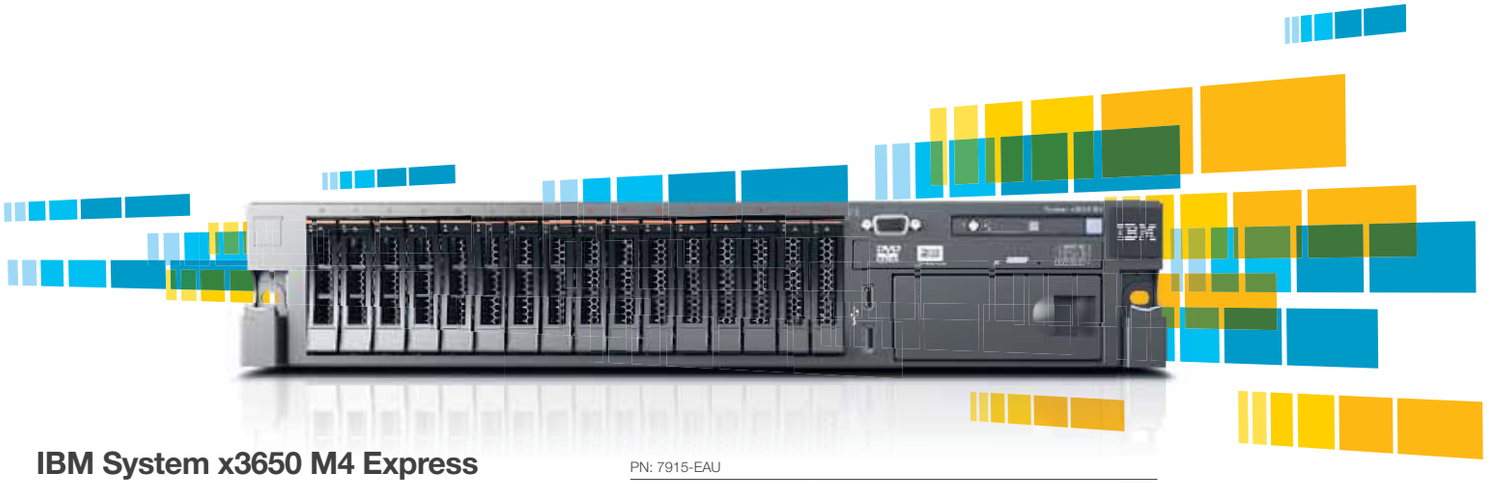

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1.TBR Report – "IBM System x® x86 servers: Meeting the demands of today's enterprises by combining value and support," January 2012. **2.** Source: Intel Performance comparison using SPECfp®_rate_base2006 benchmark. Baseline score of 267 on prior generation 2S Intel® Xeon® processor X5690 (3.46 GHz, 6 core, 12MB L3, 6.4 GT/s, 130W) based platform published at www.spec.org as of 6 Sept 2011. Estimated new score of 486 on 2S Intel® Xeon® processor E5-2690 (2.90 GHz, 8 core, 20MB L3, 8.0 GT/s, 135W) based platform is based on Intel internal measured estimates as of 6 Sept 2011 using two Intel® Xeon® processor E5-2690, Turbo Enabled, EIST Enabled, Hyper-Threading Enabled, 64 GB memory (8 x 8 GB DDR3-1600), Red Hat® Enterprise Linux Server 6.1 beta for x86_6, Intel® Compiler 12.1. **3.** x3650 M4 supports up to 768 GB of memory using 32 GB LRDIMMs in it 24 memory slots. Previous generation x3650 M3 supports up to 192 GB of memory. **4.** Ships with 4 1 Gb Ethernet ports standard and supports integrated slot-less 10 Gb Ethernet with Virtual Fabric. Previous generation server includes 2 1 Gb Ethernet slots and requires use of a PCI Express slot to support 10 Gb Ethernet. *Available later in 2012. IBM hardware products are manufactured from new parts or new and serviceable used parts. Regardless, our warranty terms apply. For a copy of applicable product warranties, visit http://www.ibm.com/servers/support/machine_warranties. IBM makes no representation or warranty regarding third-party products or services. IBM, the IBM logo, BladeCenter, System Storage and System x are registered trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation registered in many jurisdictions worldwide. Other product and service names might be trademarks of IBM or other companies. For a current list of IBM trademarks, see www.ibm.com/legal/copytrade.shtml. Intel, the Intel logo, Xeon and Xeon Inside are trademarks of Intel Corporation in the U.S. and other countries. All prices and savings estimates are subject to change without notice, may vary according to configuration, are based upon IBM's estimated retail selling prices as of 03/13/12 and may not include storage, hard drive, operating system or other features. Reseller prices and savings to end users may vary. Products are subject to availability. This document was developed for offerings in Canada. IBM may not offer the products, features, or services discussed in this document in other countries. Contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner for the most current pricing in your geographic area. ©2012 IBM Corporation.

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KEEPING UP WITH BLOODSUCKING VERMIN

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Don't be alarmed, but this column may be covered in bedbugs.

I'm not entirely sure if bedbugs have infiltrated my apartment, but I was bitten by SOMETHING recently, so like all chewed-on city dwellers I've been panicked that it could be the little bloodsuckers.

That means if you've touched this column, you should freeze it, steam it, fumigate it, poison it, microwave it, Holy Water it, and simmer it in a white wine sauce for 40 minutes, stirring occasionally. Even then, that will only stun the little bug(ger)s, because they're the insect equivalent of The Incredible Hulk.

Once nearly eradicated, bedbugs have made a comeback worthy of a B-list actor in a Tarantino flick.

And they're everywhere.

Online bedbug registries for pre-screening apartments and hotels are useless, because all you learn is that bedbugs are omnipresent — like the body snatchers — and there's nothing us foolish humans can do about it. (Pro tip: If a bedbug rates a location as eight out of 10 or higher and is raving about the buffet, steer clear.)

Bedbugs are filling their ick quotient so well that I looked at the welts on my arm and hoped they were from something pleasant, like a spider. If an exterminator looked at my skin and said, "Actually, that's from a wolf" I'd say, "Oh, thank goodness. Do we spray for that?"

There is hope, however. I've been reading up on bedbugs, as one does when you swear you can feel them on your skin at every waking moment. They can be fought, but you need to know your enemy, so here are some myths about the creatures and the reality behind it. Happy hunting!

- **Myth #1:** Bedbugs are invisible.
  Reality: Bedbugs are seldom seen because they only come out at night. They are actually several feet long and live in your closet. Telltale signs include a viscous trail of slime and opened canisters of Pringles.
- **Myth #2:** Bedbugs are a sign of uncleanliness.
  Reality: Bedbugs can live anywhere from the poorest, most squalid apartment to the cleanest hairpiece on the richest Trump. Bedbugs are attracted not to dirt, but sin, which is why they live in your bed. They will migrate to the living room immediately if you turn on the Kardashians.
- **Myth #3:** Bedbug bites come in threes.
  Reality: Bedbugs know you know this, so they sometimes throw in a fourth bite and scurry off, giggling.
- **Myth #4:** You need an exterminator to get rid of bedbugs.
  Reality: All you need for a successful bedbug kill is a shoe. Beat until you see telltale black and blue markings. They'll still be alive at that point, but they'll know who's boss. A Nike shoe will doubly impress them with your alpha-ness, especially later that night when they're nibbling on your earlobe.

And now you know.

Sleep tight!

Bedbug-detecting dog Barney signals which jar contains bedbugs. But don't wait for Barney to tell you that you've got bedbugs — grab a shoe and start swinging.

BRIAN KERSEY/GETTY IMAGES

Psy, this is UN Style

ALLISON JOYCE/GETTY IMAGES

South Korea connection

UN boss horses around with Psy

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon got some dance lessons from compatriot South Korean pop sensation Psy.

On a visit to the United Nations in New York Wednesday, the rapper, born Park Jae-sang, attempted to teach the world's top diplomat the invisible horse trot dance from his global viral hit Gangnam Style.

METRO

UN chief's viewpoint

"I'm a bit jealous. Until two days ago someone told me I am the most famous Korean in the world. Now I have to relinquish. I have no regrets."

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on his countryman Psy

Singer's viewpoint

"To be here and he knows me, even the fact that he knows me is so touching right now and he's saying he saw my video, he counted my video views."

South Korean rapper Psy on meeting the head of the UN

Gangnam engages

Why Ban wanted to meet Psy

Ban's spokesperson Martin Nesirky told reporters that while the secretary general deals with issues such as Syria, he also considers it important to engage different parts of society.

"He firmly believes music has great power, particularly in helping to overcome intolerance," he said. "It helps to reach out to audiences in a way that many other forms of culture cannot do." METRO

Metropolitan Panel

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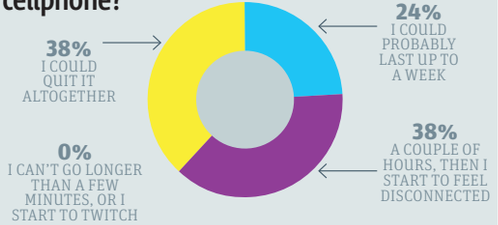
How long could you go without your cellphone?



Twitter

@DanPaulOwen: Seeing all these tweets made me tune in to CPAC to watch Tom Mulcair speak against the budget. He's next level right now. #tm4pm #cdnpoli

@therantbot: Stay safe #Jamaica. My home away from home.

@TheUglyCanadian: I don't know who to be annoyed with more, the players or the owners. Both are breaking my heart with each passing day. #almostbroken #NHL

@thepapergal: So the #TTC relief line might be a reality in 25 years or so?! Lol I guess my grand kids can enjoy that.

@melodyinreverie: As if bees weren't enough trouble to begin with, now we'll have zombie bees too #apocalypse #buggers

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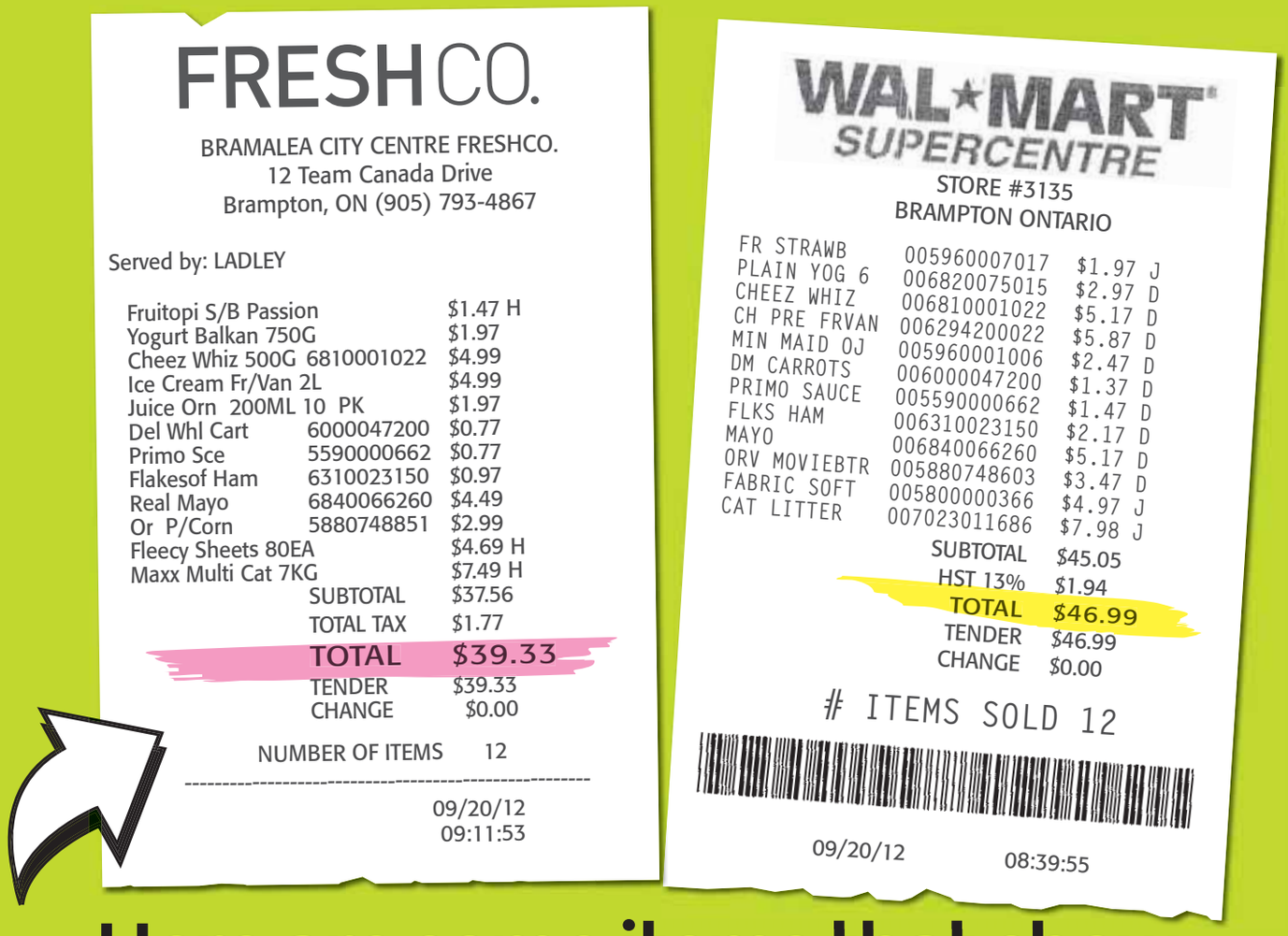

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SUBTOTAL		$37.56
TOTAL TAX		$1.77
TOTAL		$39.33
TENDER		$39.33
CHANGE		$0.00

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09:11:53

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FR STRAWB	005960007017	$1.97 J
PLAIN YOG 6	006820075015	$2.97 D
CHEEZ WHIZ	006810001022	$5.17 D
CH PRE FRVAN	006294200022	$5.87 D
MIN MAID OJ	005960001006	$2.47 D
DM CARROTS	006000047200	$1.37 D
PRIMO SAUCE	005590000662	$1.47 D
FLKS HAM	006310023150	$2.17 D
MAYO	006840066260	$5.17 D
ORV MOVIEBTR	005880748603	$3.47 D
FABRIC SOFT	005800000366	$4.97 J
CAT LITTER	007023011686	$7.98 J
SUBTOTAL		$45.05
HST 13%		$1.94
TOTAL		$46.99
TENDER		$46.99
CHANGE		$0.00

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These receipts show identical items that were purchased at each respective store. The items we've selected include commonly purchased products. The specific store locations, dates, and times at which the purchases were made are shown on each receipt.

The only guide to a Hogtown Halloween that you'll need

The Halloween Haunt at Canada's Wonderland runs through Sunday. CANADA'S WONDERLAND

Roundup. From family friendly to gore-happy, drag shows to an Electric Circus reunion, we've got you covered

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

The default activities for Halloween are house parties, clubs or just staying home to give out candy. (Or maybe you're still the one trick-or-treating. No judgment here.)

But in the days leading up to All Hollow's Eve, there's a near endless list of things to do to scare you out of your usual Halloween routine.

Along with the array of horror films that see release before Halloween, there are still two nights left in the After Dark film festival for the hardcore horror, sci-fi and cult movie buffs.

The Bloor Hot Docs cinema continues its annual tradition of screening the Rocky Horror Picture Show Friday and Saturday night, an event that always borders on performance art.

Homebodies might want to note that MuchMusic has scheduled Paranormal Activity and the first three Scream movies into their weekend schedules.

And Trinity-St. Paul's United Church will be screening 1929 silent classic Faust, complete with a live piano score by Robert Bruce.

If active frights are more your thing, there's plenty of haunted houses around the city.

The go-to, of course, is the Halloween Haunt at Canada's Wonderland that runs through Sunday.

Not to be out done, Exhibition Place hosts Screemers, an indoor scream park with a slasher wax museum.

There's also the Scareshow haunted house on the Danforth and Topham Terrors Haunted House in Richmond Hill.

Nearly every neighbourhood has ghost walks of some sort, including Haunted High Park, Haunted Kensington, Haunted Streets of Downtown, the Toronto Ghost Tour, the Ghosts of the University of Toronto and the Halloween Howl night hike.

There are also Halloween parties in a few unlikely places.

The Royal Ontario Museum's Friday Night Live DJ night goes ghoul with Spirit (All Hollow's Eve) with a more family friendly event Sunday afternoon.

Frightfully serious get-ups

If FanExpo is any indication, comic fans don't fool around when it comes to costumes

The Silver Snail comic shop hosts a party at its new Yonge Street location. The event includes a costume contest and if FanExpo is any indication, comic fans don't fool around when it comes to costumes.

Artscape Gibraltar Point on Toronto Island is hosting Ghost Hole IV, a haunted art show with a performance from Maylee Todd.

Anyone looking for something really fun and out of the ordinary should head down to Club 120 on Church Street Friday night for Drag You to Hell, a horror-themed drag show. And finally, Electric Circus makes a rare return to 299 Queen St. W. Saturday night. Party like its 1999.

Hanks, Berry have their heads in the clouds

Rare opportunity. Both actors relished the chance to play multiple and very different characters in Cloud Atlas

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Actors love a challenge, right?

So the idea of playing as many as six characters across very different time periods — from the 1800s to the post-apocalyptic future — must have been exhilarating for Tom Hanks, Halle Berry and their Cloud Atlas co-stars, right?

"I thought they were all a b—, to tell you the truth.

"They were all tough," Hanks says with some laughter.

But in all seriousness, playing all those characters — and putting on all the makeup involved in distinguishing them — was far from daunting for Berry.

"They weren't tough at all.

"Honestly, it was like the most fun to stretch.

"I got to play a white Jewish woman in 1930 — like, when would I get to do that?" she asks.

"Like, you just don't get better than having to choose from all these unique people and characters.

"I'll never get to be an Asian man again, probably ever."

One thing Hanks definitely wasn't worried about was looking silly.

That's something he stopped doing a long time ago, anyway.

"I've had experiences on a number of occasions where we were going to shoot for something that was going to be very precarious and sometimes it works," he says.

"Like Castaway was a movie where we thought, 'We are breaking every rule here. Is anybody going to give a s— about this guy when he never talks and he's on an island and all it is (is) about falling coconuts?'

"Every movie is a huge minefield that you're walking, not if it's going to be a success but if it's going to be a cohesive story that people get.

"In this case, they just threw so deep and it was so attractive if only for that reason, that you throw your lot in.

"Otherwise what are you going to do? Only make movies that are guaranteed to work?

"Well, guess what, we could be sitting here talking about Forrest Gump Six, which is a lot better than Forrest Gump Five.

"Who wants to do that for the rest of their lives?" he adds.

But the release of Cloud Atlas is a bit bittersweet, at least for Berry, as she worries she'll never do another film like it.

"I think in my lifetime it's going to take someone to be wildly visionary and willing take the risks," she says of the independently financed $100 million film, directed by Lana and Andy Wachowski and Tom Twyker.

"Not to say it can't be done, I just don't know if the lottery will put my name in another venture like this.

"To be in a movie that's going to envelop these concepts, where you will need one person to play six people — I doubt that they're going to make it again in two years, because we're doing it now."

Hanks agrees with the sentiment, adding that Cloud Atlas may have spoiled the actors, who have to return to more traditional films now.

"We are all spoiled because we always said this: 'The next time we're in a movie, we're just going to play one person,'" Hanks says.

"He might have as many as six costume changes, but it's not going to be the same as playing all of these people," he adds.

Quoted

"I just don't know if the lottery will put my name in another venture like this. To be in a movie that's going to envelop these concepts, where you will need one person to play six people — I doubt that they're going to make it again in two years."

Halle Berry on the bittersweet feeling she had when she finished her work in Cloud Atlas and realized she probably wouldn't get another opportunity like this in her career.

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Tom Hanks and Halle Berry stretch their acting prowess in Cloud Atlas, which opens Friday. HANDOUT

Paparazzi woes

Berry on playing a journalist

One of the six characters Halle Berry plays in Cloud Atlas — and one of her more prominent roles in the films — is investigative journalist Luisa Rey. So did the role give her any sympathy for the folks who spend their time investigating her? Not so much. "I think journalism definitely has a place in our society, especially good journalism, but I think we've also become a society where we're now focused on little children and what kids are wearing, and that is hard for me to swallow," Berry says. "There are so many more important things to write about in life than what four-year-olds are wearing, and showing kids going to and from school and doing their normal, everyday life seems like such an intrusion, and I think it's taking advantage of what journalism is supposed to be about and what the media is supposed to be all about. I'm wildly frustrated by that."

The paparazzi have so frustrated Berry that she's measured her options of how best to combat the problem and came up with only one possible solution. "We are in a time now where I'm actually having to fight to leave the country that I love because I'm unable to provide a private, secure, safe place for my daughter to grow. Times have changed," she says. "I've realized that all I can really do about it is to remove myself from the situation, because I keep running up against walls that tell me in order to change this I've got to somehow figure out a way to change the Constitution. And I'm smart enough to know I probably can't do that."

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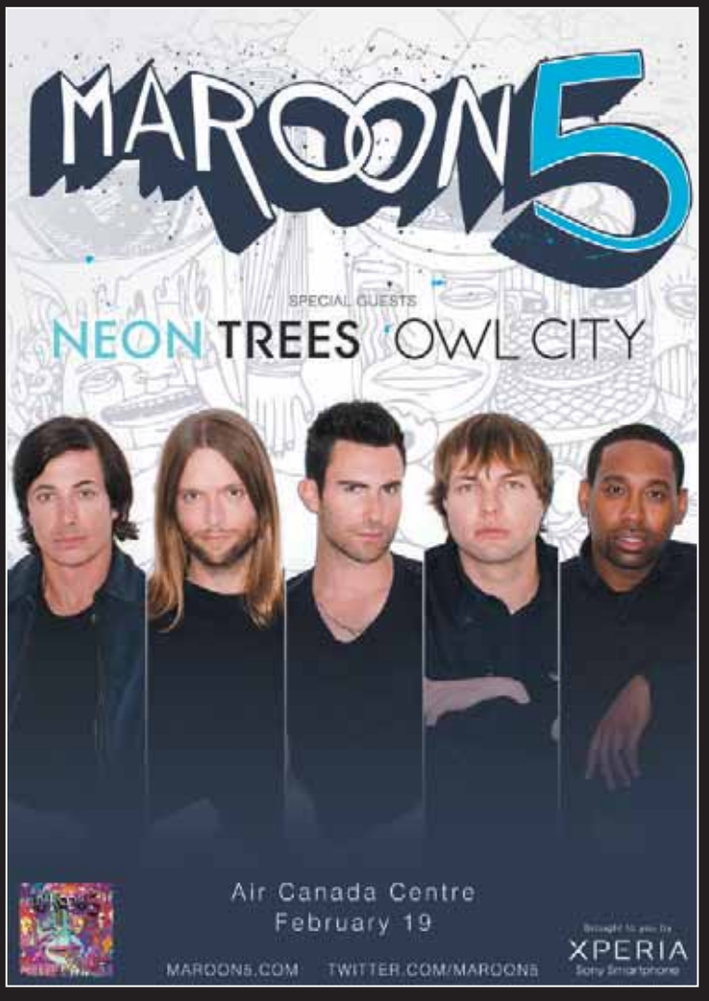

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Butler has respect for the folks who hang 10

Chasing Mavericks. Actor tried riding some of the most dangerous waves in the U.S. to get into character for film about surfing

JOEL AMOS
Metro World News in Hollywood

Gerard Butler had only the most basic appreciation for surfing before he set to work on Chasing Mavericks — and that's putting it mildly.

"I had surfed about three or four times in my life," Butler admits.

The Scottish actor knew he'd have to amp up his game if he wanted to properly capture the essence of surfing great Frosty Hesson, who taught teenager Jay Moriarity (played by newcomer Jonny Weston in the film) to ride mavericks, which are considered the most dangerous waves in the country.

Not one to shy away from a challenge, Butler dove right in — and paid for it with an epic wipeout.

"Jonny Weston and I both surfed mavericks. It was where I was taken down," Butler says with a coy smile.

With the experience of getting pulled under a wall of water, his admiration for what these athletes do only intensified.

"It taught me a lesson. It's not a pleasant experience," he offers.

Even though that moment sent him to the hospital, Butler marvelled at the sport's ability to foster a Zen-like feeling in the surfers as they ride these incredibly dangerous monsters of water.

"It's incredibly meditative and spiritual," Butler explains.

"I found the whole experience really transformative.

"When you get up on that wave and become one with it, you just become one with nature."

The second challenge facing the actor was portraying a real-life individual, and Butler wanted to do Hesson justice as a complex person.

"He's a very philosophical character and he's well-read.

"So I wanted to play that guy who enjoys that, but at the same time, he harbours a lot of pain," Butler says.

"There's the person you experience, but he also now knows the stories being told about him."

It was an effort that mirrored his last film, Machine Gun Preacher, also about a real, larger-than-life personality. "I experienced the same with Sam Childers," Butler explains.

"They become used to telling their story to people who are interested in telling their story, rather than the person who was living the story."

Now that Butler has the experience under his belt, he looks back fondly on the moment he knew that Chasing Mavericks would be his next film — which happened to coincide with a completely different kind of lesson, which found him not in the water, but in the sky.

"I was learning to fly a helicopter along the coast. I saw all the guys on surfboards.

"I was like, 'What am I thinking? I need to get a place in Malibu and I need to take this movie and learn how to surf!'" Butler says.

"I touched down and called them and said, 'Let's do it!'"

Chasing Mavericks opens Friday. HANDOUT

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Moviegoers are in for some sweet ear candy

The Hobbit is scheduled to hit theatres on Dec. 14 HANDOUT

New sound technology. Dolby's fresh system will make Peter Jackson's next film a sight to be heard

Middle-earth will sound more realistic in The Hobbit.

Dolby Laboratories Inc. and director Peter Jackson's Park Road Post Production announced Wednesday that The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey will be mixed and released in Dolby Atmos, the company's immersive new sound system that features two extra arrays of overhead speakers and the ability to direct sounds to individual speakers inside movie theatres.

"(Jackson) felt it was going to make a big difference in how he tells stories," said Stuart Bowling, Dolby's senior technical marketing manager.

"He doesn't want people to just go and observe his movies. He wants you to feel like you're part of the experience of the stories that's he's trying to tell on the screen and allow you to be part of Middle-earth."

The director of the Oscar-winning The Lord of the Rings films adapted J.R.R. Tolkien's tale of Bilbo Baggins, set in the fictional realm of Middle-earth 60 years before The Lord of the Rings. Besides the standard 2D format, Warner Bros. Pictures and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures are releasing the series in high-frame-rate 3D, IMAX and other 3D formats.

Bowling said Dolby's goal is to have the Atmos platform installed in 80 to 100 theatres in time for The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey, which is scheduled to premiere on Dec. 14.

The second and third films, The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug and The Hobbit: There and Back Again, are set for release Dec. 13, 2013, and July 18, 2014.

Other movies slated to be released in the Atmos format include Fox's Chasing Mavericks and Life of Pi. Disney-Pixar's Brave was the first film to debut with the audio format earlier this year.

Bowling said the company expects more than 15 films to be released in Atmos next year and hoped to have the system in 1,000 theatres by the end of next year.

"Dolby Atmos is fantastic from a sound quality position," said John Neill, head of sound at Park Road Post Production.

"We can now hear full range surround speakers, meaning that when we pan from the front to surround, the sound does not change in quality.

The overhead speakers give us the opportunity to place the theatre patron really in the location."

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Lindsay Lohan. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Linsday Lohan struggling with political choices

Amid all the confusion currently engulfing Lindsay Lohan's personal life, at least the world knew where the troubled actress stood politically — until now. Lohan had previously endorsed Mitt Romney in the U.S. presidential election because "employment is really important right now," according to E! News.

But while live-tweeting the last presidential debate earlier this week, Lohan voiced her support for President Barack Obama by re-tweeting a post from the president's campaign saying she was "proud of Obama."

The tweet was soon deleted, though, so maybe she is on Team Romney after all.

It sounds like the debates were rough on the actress, in any event.

"I'm so relieved that it's over. Maybe more than both of (the candidates). Severe anxiety."

Quote

"I'm so relieved that it's over. Maybe more than both of (the candidates.) Severe anxiety"

Lindsay Lohan
Tweeting about the election debate

The Word

Joe Simpson coming out of Jessica's stylish closet?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Looks like Ashlee and Jessica Simpson are going to have a lot to talk about around the Thanksgiving dinner table.

First up? Their mother, Tina Simpson, filed for divorce from their father, Joe Simpson, after 34 years of marriage last month.

"It is an amicable split and there is no third party involved," a rep for the family says. "Any other related allegations are completely false. The family appreciates your respect for their privacy at this time."

The allegations they refer to? Well, the National Enquirer is reporting that their father, Joe Simpson, has come out of the closet.

According to the tabloid, Simpson has a 20-year-old boyfriend, who was reportedly in the car with the former youth pastor and Baptist minister when he was busted for a DUI on Aug. 4.

I'll give you a second to let that sink in. Got it together? Good. The National Enquirer even has a source from the family.

"The police report stated that there was someone else in the car with Joe. Some reports have stated it was Tina, but now the belief is that it may well have been a boyfriend."

Of course, there is a good chance this might not be true. After all, if Jessica Simpson's father were gay, don't you think her shoe line would be a little more fierce?

Emma Watson

Emma Watson returning to school

Emma Watson is going back to school. After enrolling in Brown University in the fall of 2009, the British actress took a leave of absence from the Ivy League school in March 2011.

"I love Brown and I love studying pretty much more than anything, but recently I've had so much to juggle that being a student and fulfilling my other commitments has become a little impossible," Watson wrote on her blog at the time.

She then spent her junior year abroad, studying at Oxford University, before delaying her return to Brown once again to film a number of projects this summer and fall. But her rep assures Gossip Cop that she will be back on campus for 2013.

Twitter

@rustyrockets
Mitt and Barrack are not proper names. I'd like an elderly female candidate in a crown.

@CarrieFFisher
I'm a failed anorexic.

@GarryShandling
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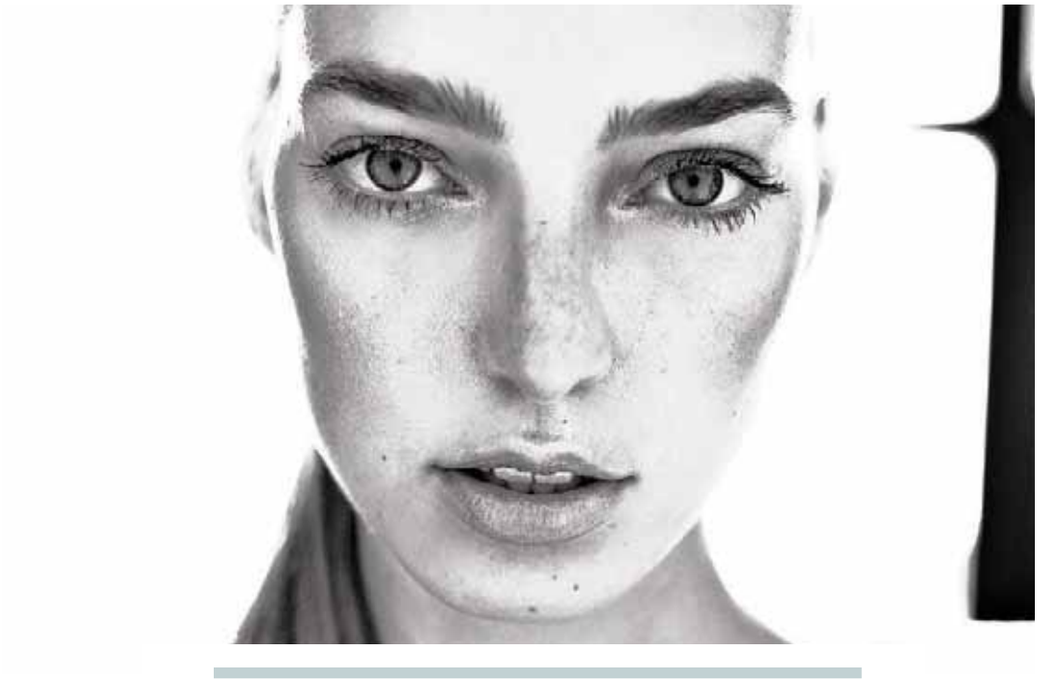

An incredible Alexander McQueen oufit worn by Dajana. PROVIDED

Dajana walks for Jil Sander in Milan. PROVIDED

DAJANA

In the two and a half years since we last spoke to model Dajana, the 20-year-old has achieved more than many in her profession will hope to in their entire career. Back from Europe to her hometown of Toronto to take on World Mastercard Fashion Week , the five-foot-11 beauty chats with Metro's Elizabeth Beddall about mayhem, McQueen and one major piece of swag

WALKING THE WORLD

So Dajana, what's your schedule been like today?
Woke up at 10 a.m., rehearsal at 1 p.m. for the Pink Tartan show, an appointment at 3:30 p.m. to get my hair and eyebrows done, hair and makeup call at 6 p.m. and show's at 8 p.m.

So a bit of a crazy day for you?
No, actually (laughs). Compared to the other cities, Toronto is very calm and relaxing. In Paris, casting would start anywhere from 7 a.m. onward. I had to learn the metro system, I would be running around all day, all night. There's no such thing as walking! And you're always late. Running from castings to fittings to go-sees until all hours of the night.

So up until this past September, you had modelled only locally so that you could finish high school. What are your thoughts now that you've graduated and gone international?
Now that I've got the ball rolling, I'm not going to stop. Going back to school is a future plan. I want to be a film director, but maybe in a couple of years. I want to see where modelling is going to take me. My next trip is to New York for campaign season.

How does your family feel about all this travelling?
They've been so supportive. If it wasn't for my family I don't know where I'd be.

So on your very first go in Europe, you opened for Roland Mouret, landed an exclusive booking with Jil Sander SS13 and walked for Alexander McQueen. What made you stand out from the crowds of girls that are seen?
I don't know, but I know what the casting directors say: My sense of humour. Fifty per cent of a job is personality. If you get along with your photographer, your stylist, that job can be really fun and it can go by really quickly.

Tell us about waiting backstage to hit the runway at the McQueen show?
I think I was the only model freaking out. They have experienced girls in the shows. Very few of us were brand new.

And when it was over?
At the end of the show, I thought, 'Am I dreaming?'. That was my goal.

My first season? It was so surreal.

And I heard you got a little surprise along the way?
When I was having a fitting and the people at Alexander McQueen said they had a gift for me. (Points to her black smooth calf leather Heroine bag.) I was searching for a bag,too.

So now that you're constantly on the runway, do you have a little something you say to yourself each time you walk out?
Don't fall! (Laughs.) Don't fall. It would be so embarrassing, but you know what? It happens all the time. You just have to get up and keep on walking.

Twitter

JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

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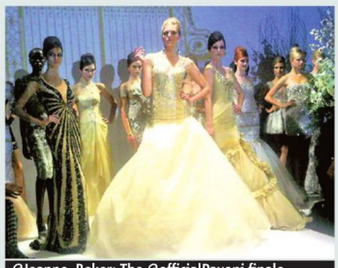

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The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Vancouver

Jane Espiritu
Editorial assistant at MTV Fora
Age: 20

What she's wearing
Blazer, collared blouse, trousers and bag by Club Monaco; pullover vest by J Crew; vintage watch by American Apparel; thrift store shoes

Her inspiration
"Laid-back, business casual look."

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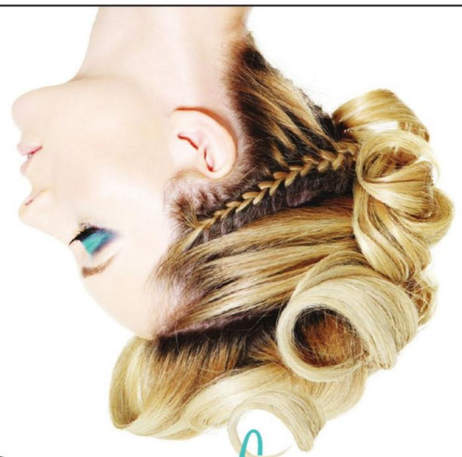

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The wait is over. H&M drip-feeds images of their latest match-ups

First came the leaked images shot by Sam Taylor-Wood on Oct. 9, followed by a flurry of shots to our inbox of the complete Maison Martin Margiela collection for Swedish global retail giant H&M.

The Parisian house, known for its avant-garde approach to fashion with deconstructed designs and oversized proportions (just take a look at the duvet coat, masculine tailoring and drapey, origami-style pleats and folds) is a daring collaboration for the global high street stalwart.

Margareta van den Bosch, creative advisor at H&M, said of the collection: "With these Maison Martin Margiela re-editions, some of the most important garments in recent fashion history will be made available at H&M. The pieces are incredibly accurate to the original and prove how the most radical concept can result in fashion that is both desirable and wearable."

It's perhaps the most fashion-forward collaboration to date, with highlights including the women's oversized turtleneck, adjusted biker jacket, fusion-of-two-dresses dress and the glove clutch. Meanwhile, the menswear boasts enviable pieces such as the trompe l'oeil high-top trainers, painted jeans and an overcoat with inverted lapels.

Although its reclusive Belgian founder parted with the house in 2009, Maison Martin Margiela has remained a Paris fixture, thanks to its in-house team of designers.

The designs will hit H&M stores on Nov.15, following sharply on the heels of collaborations with the likes of Anna Dello Russo, Marni and Versace.

RICHARD PECKETT, METRO

Kind of a big deal

"With these Maison Martin Margiela re-editions, some of the most important garments in recent fashion history will be made available at H&M."

Margareta van den Bosch
Creative advisor at H&M

Kling of the collaboration: Blogger bonds with Guess

Elin Kling strikes a pose in front of her new collection. PROVIDED

Blonde ambition.
Elin Kling brings her minimal chic esthetic to a capsule collection for Guess by Marciano

Popular Swede Elin Kling, a personal-style blogger and entrepreneur (she co-founded fashion blog portal Now-Manifest, which was recently bought by Fairchild Fashion Media), is no stranger to the design side of pretty clothes. Last year, she became the first blogger to collaborate with H&M on a line and is now adding her personal touch to a capsule collection for Guess by Marciano. We caught up with the busy blogger at the launch party.

What made you collaborate with Marciano?
It was really fun and a good challenge because my brand (doesn't) share the same esthetic as Guess, so I thought it was fun to try to find a good mix together. Also, I'm the first one that they've collaborated with, so I thought that was fun, too.

How have you incorporated your own style into the collection?
I tried to not have too much of my own style, but when I look at the collection I'm like, 'Hmm, yes, you can definitely see my style in it.' But also, you see with the denim and the oversized sweater that I wanted to find the perfect basic pieces.

What are your three must-haves for fall?
Definitely [something] plaid. I always think you need big, large knits. I'm more for knits than jackets and also just big, big, big scarves.

OLIVIA MORROW/METRO

Look out for it

- Elin Kling for Marciano will be available Nov. 1 at select Guess stores across Canada and online at marciano.com

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING

FRIGHTFULLY GOOD FUN IN KAWARTHAS

Halloween has become one of the biggest events of the year, and no community scares up more enthusiasm for witches and vampires than the "Haunt your Home" event hosted by the City of Kawartha Lakes.

This popular decorating contest is now in its fourth year. Lindsay residents will be dying to win the $15,000 in prize money for the best haunted homes, but townsfolk and villagers throughout the city will also look to make a killing. So grab your little goblins and head to The Kawarthas, where you can enjoy a monstrous evening of eerie excitement while touring around. You should also keep a dangling eyeball out for the haunted hearse.

Another trick for getting into the Halloween spirit is a trip to Lang Pioneer Village north of Rice Lake. This weekend, the village transforms into a haunted haven for ghosts and zombies guaranteed to give you and your family a devil of a good time.

Peterborough is also home to the paranormal, with hooded tours offered nightly at 7 until Halloween.

The fear rises from the corner of Hunter Street and Driscoll Terrace, where you will hear spooky stories about Quaker Oats, the Hunter Street Bridge and numerous old houses that date back hundreds of years.

Treat your family to the best of Halloween in Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes and Northumberland. We're sure that after one wicked weekend of fun, "Our Favourite Place" will become your favourite place.

metro

HALLOWEEN FUN

Thursday, October 25, 2012

Big Bird meets Gangnam

Costumes. Some of the hottest outfits this Halloween season are inspired from pop culture

Popular costumes for adults this year include Big Bird, and South Korean pop star Psy, below. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

HEATHER BUCHAN
For Metro

The final countdown to Halloween has begun and the hot topic amongst kids and adults alike across the country is what to dress up as for Fright Night 2012.

It seems that every year there is more and more variety available. What you choose simply depends on budget, taste and time.

Here are some of this year's hottest costumes for people of all ages:

Depending on a child's age, costumes are more about fun than fright, with many toddlers wobbling around in cutesy, rather than scary, attire that's sure to elicit some ghoulish giggles.

For preschoolers, the most popular costumes year after year include animals (puppy dogs, turtles, cats, horses, bunnies and cows reign supreme) as well as firefighters, bees and, interestingly, hotdogs.

While traditionally spooky costumes like ghosts, ghouls, goblins and witches are classic go-to's every year, increasingly, popular culture influences the costume decisions of teens and adults for Halloween parties.

At Candy's Costume Shop on Mount Pleasant Road in Toronto, Dorothy costumes have already sold out, a trend staff attribute to the reality TV singing competition Over The Rainbow.

Other popular teen and adult costumes that experts predict will be out and about in abundance include Lady Gaga (her eccentric wardrobe provides endless outrageous costume options), South Korean pop star Psy, whose pop song Gangnam Style, complete with invisible horse dance moves, went viral on the Internet, and Big Bird (thanks to U.S. presidential candidate Mitt Romney's name-dropping of the beloved Sesame Street character during the first presidential debate). According to ABC News, Big Bird costumes are flying off the shelves at U.S. costume shops.

Transylvanian vampire costume, far left, and Dorothy costume, $32.93 each at Walmart.

Year after year, the most popular costumes for boys are of the superhero variety, and this year, the impact of the Twilight franchise on tweens and teens alike cannot be overstated. So you can expect to see boys and girls alike dressed as vampires and werewolves this year. Superhero costumes, including Batman and Captain America, both influenced by the mega-popular films, will also be plentiful.

While in days past, many young girls donned princess costumes to do their trick-or-treating in, this year, staff at Candy's have seen more young girls opting for vampire and ghoul costumes. And thanks to the recent Little Red Riding Hood and Snow White-based movies, there is expected to be a resurgence of both fairy tale characters this year as well.

Given all the costume options, Halloween 2012 is sure to be spooktacular.

SHOP HALLOWEEN AT ValueVillage

For great costume, craft and party ideas plus easy makeup videos visit **www.valuevillage.com**

The undying popularity of haunted houses

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Have you toured a haunted house yet in the lead-up to Halloween? Why exactly do we love our haunted experiences so much?

"I think it's something so different from your average experience," says Danusia Rogacki, area manager of technical and event services for Canada's Wonderland, the Vaughan, Ont.-based theme park that produces an annual Halloween Haunt. "People like to feel safe and they assume that most places they go are safe. So they get this kind of thrill when they come in and are expecting to be scared and a monster pops out and they get a little jolt of adrenaline.

"It's so removed from everyday life."

While Rogacki says its corn maze has remained one of the haunt's most popular attractions, she is seeing other types of experiences grow in popularity as well.

"Our clown maze, for example, because I think clowns are a staple fear for a lot of people. And our vampire nightclub has been really popular, too," she said. "You look at those three experiences and they're completely different. The corn maze is outside in the forest — it's all organic and natural materials and then our nightclub is sleek and metals and lasers."

Meanwhile, Rogacki thinks haunts of many sorts — commercial and home haunts (independent haunts held in parking lots or farmer's fields for example) — are a growing attraction.

"The last couple of years this type of attraction has just exploded in popularity," she said. "We're starting to catch up to the States in terms of the popularity with those kinds of events. In the States, you trip over haunt events no matter where you go."

So how can you make the most out of your haunt experience this year? Here are Rogacki's tips:

- Go to your favourite haunt on a quieter day. "Sundays, for example, are quieter so visitors have more time to see their favourites and do their favourites again."
- Go after dark, of course. Many open around dusk.
- Tour the haunt in small groups. "That way they'll feel more isolated when they get scared."

Want to find one near you? Search the Canadian Haunters Association website (canadianhauntersassociation.com).

Dress up your home with Fabric Ghost Lights, $14.99, above, Indoor Pumpkin Lights, $19.99, below, and Spider Pillar Candle, $6, all available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca. CONTRIBUTED

Demonic décor. Hot tips for your spooky spaces

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Looking to freshen up your home's look for Halloween? Before you drag out the stringy cobwebs and Styrofoam tombstones, consider going a different route this year.

Metro asked Karl Lohnes, its Décor Moment columnist, for his thoughts on what's hot for the scariest day of the year.

HAVE FUN WITH LIGHTING

Forget stringing up your Christmas lights early to decorate your front porch. "One of the big trends this Halloween is going more experiential décor," Lohnes said. "So we're going to see people putting strobe lights up inside the window, or hanging not Christmas lights, but Halloween themed mini-lights. They tend to go all out with it." Or, he adds, you can take a different approach with lighting — say bunching up a string of Halloween lights and after they are lit put them into a beautiful glass bowl for a unique centrepiece.

To further create a mood, add in a touch of sound either inside or outside your front door. "And if you're having a party, the sounds create some eeriness. Instead, it all works to create a mood," Lohnes added.

THINK BEYOND ORANGE

Forget the traditional strict orange and black colours this year. "There isn't as much orange as we think this year," Lohnes said. "Following popular trends, there are a lot of grey, black, and off-white — it's just more solemn colours to create more of a sophisticated Halloween look rather than just going all orange."

GET CREATIVE WITH PUMPKINS

"People are really doing some interesting things with pumpkins this year," Lohnes said. "And they're doing them to real gourds and artificial ones as well — so changing nature in a way to make it look more interesting."

This year's approaches include opting for white pumpkins from the store rather than traditional orange, painting pumpkins a unique colour, or blinging up their front door gourds. "They are using spray glitter on their pumpkin to have the whole thing have a bit of a shine to it," Lohnes said. "Or they've sprayed a few gourds with glitter and put them in a basket, so adding some bling to nature."

Take a walk among the dead

Does The Walking Dead have you inspired this Halloween to go zombie? If so, Allison Lumley, owner of Main Artery Designs in Red Deer, Alta., gives us her best tips on turning zombie for the big night.

WHAT TO USE?

Lumley says you can start with regular makeup for a DIY look, such as foundation or eye shadow, keeping in mind that the best bruise colours are greys and black. "Then you can add white glue and toilet paper for a wrinkle or decay effect," she said.

Looking for a more professional look?

Visit your local Halloween or theatrical store to pick up basic face paints, theatre blood, and liquid latex/spirit gum for adhering things to your face.

Use a guide

"Have an image of a skull and use the shadows and highlights from the skull's bone structure to guide your make up," Lumley said.

For example, think dark shades around eyes, temples, collar bone, throat and highlighting the cheek bones to give features more depth.

Here is Lumley's step-by-step process for turning into a zombie:

1 Moisturize to prepare your face since you are about to add a lot of makeup to it.

2 Apply a base colour such as a pale blue or grey.

3 Add latex wounds or glue/tissue. "For instant wrinkles, pull back the skin on your forehead so it's tight and put on a layer of glue. Blow dry, then let go," Lumley said. Or squint as tight as you can and lightly dab shade in the form of blacks and greys with a makeup sponge on the squint lines.

4 Add some red around the bottom of the eyes.

5 Mix corn syrup and red food colouring to make coagulated blood to add to wounds, or even swish around your mouth and let it drool out for extra blood effects.

6 Remember to include the neck, ears and hands to keep the effects real. "And for the ultimate look, you can buy special contact lenses or "Zombie Rot" for your teeth, and rub conditioner through your hair to make it look lifeless and dirty," Lumley said.

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK

A zombie parades down the street during the Toronto Zombie Walk earlier this month. Transform yourself into a zombie this Halloween with a few easy tips. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING CHANGE FOR KIDS

HOLLAND BLOORVIEW KIDS REHABILITATION HOSPITAL PHOTO

THE HALLOWEEN TREAT OF CHOICE

Chocolate? Lollipop? Change for Kids coin?

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital is thrilled to tell the GTA about the "it" treat this Halloween: Change for Kids coins. These paper coins are part of Change for Kids, Holland Bloorview's new Halloween program. The program is about celebrating Halloween, while giving trick-or-treaters the opportunity to help kids with disabilities. All families can take part.

Holland Bloorview is Canada's largest children's rehabilitation teaching hospital. The hospital pioneers treatments, technologies, therapies and real-world programs that give kids with disabilities the tools to participate fully in life.

And Halloween is a holiday that is close to Holland Bloorview's heart.

"Halloween is a time for kids to be whoever they want to be," says Tracey Bailey, president and CEO of Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation. "A time for them to challenge their imaginations and envision all kinds of potential. This imaginative spirit is what Holland Bloorview is all about. The staff here are constantly challenging their imagination to do more for kids, and we never stop being inspired by the unlimited potential of our clients."

Change for Kids is fun and easy. Families can purchase the Change for Kids coin card, which contains 20 coins, for $5. Families hand these coins out to trick-or-treaters, who are reminded to enter the coin's unique PIN code at changeforkids.ca for their chance to win amazing prizes. Prizes include instant win gifts from Toys "R" Us, a grand prize weekend stay at Great Wolf Lodge for the winner's family and nine other families of their choice, $1,000 RESPs from Scotiabank, Cineplex movie tickets, and more.

For every PIN code entered online, Scotiabank will donate $5 to Holland Bloorview. Meanwhile, kids are given the gift of knowing that they too are helping to change the world for kids with disabilities.

On Oct. 31, hand out something more than a treat. Visit your local Scotiabank branch to purchase a Change for Kids coin card for $5. They can also be collected from newspapers and magazines, as well as participating Spirit Halloween, Costco and Toys "R" Us locations, and activated for $5 online

For more, visit changeforkids.ca.

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Exclusively at the LCBO.

SOUTHERN TIER PUMKING
182287 650 mL $8.95
Exclusively at the LCBO.

ST AMBROISE PUMPKIN ALE
90738 4 x 341 mL $9.95
Exclusively at the LCBO.

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Featured products available at select LCBO stores, while supplies last.

PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Guilt-free brownies — no, seriously

Ingredients

- 2 cups (8 oz) pecan flour
- 1 cup (4 oz) almond flour
- 2 cups Splenda or Stevia Extract in the Raw, or 1/2 cup New Roots Stevia Sugar
- 1/2 cup (1 1/2 ounces) unsweetened natural cocoa powder (not Dutch-process)
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup unsweetened chocolate soy milk or chocolate almond milk
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) salted butter or margarine, melted
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp liquid Stevia

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Line an 8-inch square baking pan with parchment paper, then mist it with cooking spray.

2. In a medium bowl, combine the pecan flour, almond flour, Splenda or other sweetener, cocoa powder and baking powder. Whisk until well mixed.

3. In large bowl, whisk the eggs, soy milk, butter, vanilla and liquid Stevia until thoroughly blended. Add the flour mixture and whisk or stir with a large spoon until all of the ingredients are evenly incorporated to make a smooth, sticky batter. Pour the mixture into the prepared pan, spreading it in an even layer.

4. Bake for 15 minutes, then rotate and bake for another 10 minutes, or until the brownies are just slightly springy but still jiggly when pressed gently at the centre. If you like fudgy brownies, remove them from the oven at this point. If you prefer them to be more cake-like, continue baking for a few more minutes, or until a toothpick inserted at the middle of the brownies comes out clean.

5. Let the brownies cool in the pan for at least 15 minutes. You can either cut the brownies in the pan, or transfer the whole piece to a cutting board before cutting. Cut them in a 3-by-4 grid to yield 12 brownies.

Cocoa-Nut Brownies

This recipe makes 12 servings. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ RECIPE FROM PETER REINHART AND DENENE WALLACE'S THE JOY OF GLUTEN-FREE, SUGAR-FREE BAKING, TEN SPEED PRESS, 2012

Cookbook of the week

All the yum, none of the regret

After more than two decades of research into gluten-free baking, Peter Reinhart and his baking partner Denene Wallace have released a collection of 80 recipes for breads, pastries, cookies, cakes and more. The Joy of Gluten-Free, Sugar-Free Baking includes: garlic breadsticks, blueberry-hazelnut muffins and more. METRO

Classic cookie recipe gets gluten-free makeover

Ingredients

- 625 ml (2 1/2 cups) almond flour
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) baking soda
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) grapeseed oil
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) agave nectar
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) vanilla
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) dark chocolate chips
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) sliced almonds

This gluten-free version of the ultimate classic chocolate chip cookie is made from almond flour and speckled with sliced almonds.

Easy to make and even easier to eat, enjoy it for dessert or use as a post-workout snack to boost your energy.

1. Heat oven to 180 C (350 F). Line baking sheets with parchment paper.

2. In bowl, combine almond flour, salt and baking soda.

3. In a medium bowl, combine grapeseed oil, agave and vanilla. Add to almond flour mixture and mix until thoroughly combined. Fold in chocolate chips and almonds.

4. Spoon dough one heaping tablespoon at a time onto baking sheet and press down to flatten. Bake for 7 to 10 minutes, until lightly golden. Let cookies cool on baking sheets for 20 minutes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/CALIFORNIA ALMONDS, ALMONDBOARD.COM

This recipe makes 24 cookies. THE CANADIAN PRESS HANDOUT

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Massey Tower rocks the house

The 60-storey tower will integrate the historic Canadian Bank of Commerce building. SUBMITTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** Massey Tower
- **Builder.** MOD Developments Inc.
- **Location.** 197 Yonge St.
- **Website.** themasseytower.com
- **Sizes.** From 377 to 1,085 sq. ft.
- **Pricing.** From $294,750 to $889,000

The project overview

Massey Tower's hotel-like amenities, high-energy location and unique heritage component all propel it above and beyond other downtown condo developments. A soaring, 60-storey modern point-tower designed by Hariri Pontarini Architects, it will integrate the historic Canadian Bank of Commerce building.

Location and transit

Located in the heart of the theatre block, steps from the Queen Street subway station and streetcar line. A short drive to Lakeshore Boulevard. and the Gardiner Expressway, which gets you where you're going. Walking distance to the downtown core and nearby Union Station and GO transit platform.

In the neighbourhood

Directly across the street from top-notch shopping at the Eaton Centre, the bustling financial district is to the west, the historic St. Lawrence neighbourhood to the east and entertainment venues including the Air Canada Centre, Yonge-Dundas Square and Rogers Centre are a short walk away.

Building amenities

Comprehensive fitness area that encompasses cardio, weights, kinesis and yoga studios, as well as change rooms and sauna-steam rooms. A piano/dance room and party area complete with bar/lounge, relaxation lounge and dining room, is equipped with a full kitchen.

Five-year mortgage rates

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5.24%	BMO	3.10%
5.24%	CIBC	3.20%
5.24%	HSBC	3.10%
3.44%	ICICI	3.00%
3.19%	ING	3.00%
5.24%	RBC	3.20%
4.99%	SCOTIA	3.10%
5.24%	TD	3.20%
5.24%	NATIONAL	3.20%
2.89%	BROKER	2.60%

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Rooftop surfing

Planning for a greater GTA

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta), (facebook.com/bildgta), and bildblogs.ca.

Earlier this week, I was asked to take part in my first webinar along with a distinguished panel of industry experts to offer my analysis on the state of the GTA's new homes market.

With a room full of esteemed market analysts like RealNet Canada's Steve Hurst and Richard Vilner, N. Barry Lyon Consultants' Barry Lyon and TREB's Jason Mercer providing commentary on the year's first three quarters, I thought I would take the opportunity to offer a broader view, addressing some of the issues facing the building and development industry.

I proceeded to explain to listeners that the GTA is really a tale of two markets — high-rise and low-rise — and while the two currently face different challenges, they all stem from the impact of the Ontario Growth Plan, better known as Place to Grow.

To those unfamiliar with this legislation, it is the Ontario government's program to plan for growth and development through regional growth plans that guide government investments and policies. Places to Grow is also the legislation that spearheaded the emphasis on intensification in the GTA, leading to the shift in the marketplace towards high-density housing.

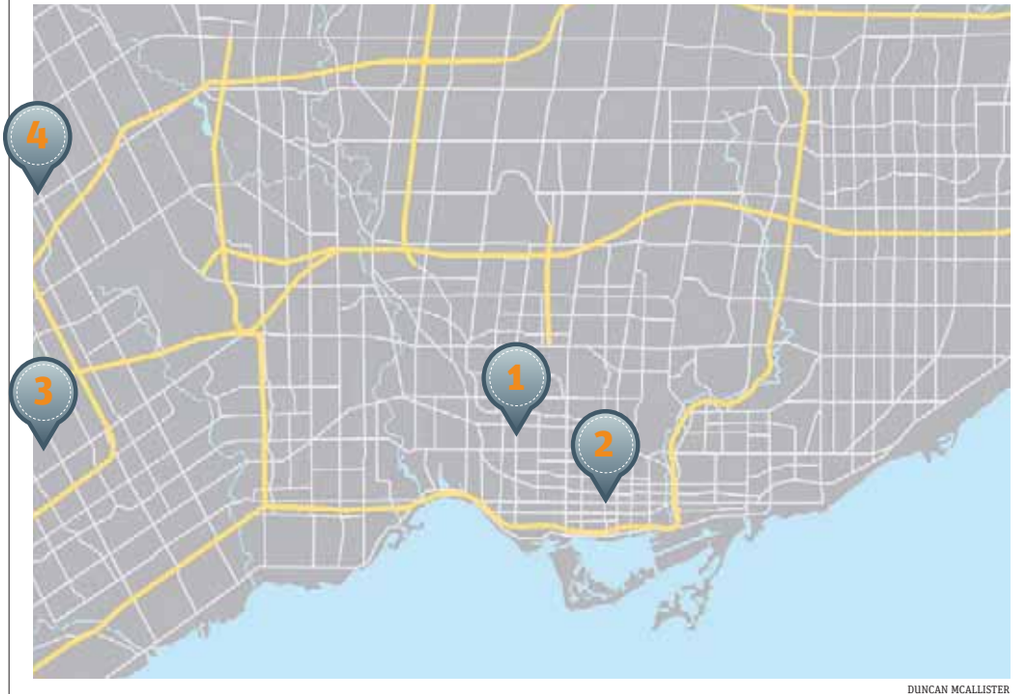
While our industry has shown its support for the legislation, time has shown that certain elements of the plan have proved difficult in the implementation process.

A good example of that is population growth. The Greater Golden Horseshoe is the fourth fastest growing urban region in North America, with an increasing amount of new residents calling the GTA their home. We have been told by provincial officials that the original forecasts for 2031 were underestimated by about 500,000 people.

Unfortunately, under the current structure, new communities in the GTA sit in the approval stage for up to 10 years, resulting in additional expense, delay and, ultimately, reducing affordability. This puts immense pressure on our industry and municipalities to build homes so all these new residents have a place to live and work.

Places to Grow requires that municipalities meet targets of 40 per cent intensification, but in order to do that, the municipalities and the province must implement tools and reduce barriers. A big part of this is creating new infrastructure and a vital step in that process is transit. Transit and land use are the two sides of the same coin and pave the path for future developments, as well as aid in meeting the intensification target and increased demand in more compact, mixed-use communities.

What's hot on the condo market



DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1. Dufferin Street

Sanctuary lofts

Grand Opening: Sanctuary Lofts. Check it out at 1183 Dufferin St., Oct. 27 - 28 from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Call 416-536-9009 or visit sanctuarylofts.ca.

2. Downtown

Open house

Shangri-La. 188 University Ave., Oct. 25 -26 from 5 - 8 p.m., Oct. 27 from 12 - 4 p.m., Call 647-788-8888 or visit shangri-la.com/toronto.

3. Mississauga

Fall festival

Community tours, FirstHome Long Valley Phase 2, Oct. 27 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Check it out at 5705 Long Valley Rd., Mississauga. Call 905-814-0123 or visit danielsfirsthome.ca.

4. Brampton

Grand opening

Blossom at Credit Heights. Check it out at 8079 Mississauga Rd., Brampton, Oct. 27 from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Call 905-216-5666 or visit countrywidehomes.ca.

What's new on the high-end condo appliance market?

Condo trends.
Robo-ovens, chameleon fridges and mini dishwashers — small-footprint appliances with all the benefits of a full-sized kitchen

DUNCAN MCALLISTER
life@metronews.ca

High tech is not just for iPhones anymore. A mash-up of European styling with high-end technology is all the rage in condo appliances.

Take for example the Fhiaba refrigerator. With a touch of a button, the bottom freezers convert to a desired temperature setting to accommodate the needs of any hostess with extra fridge space or a fresco drawer.

Anthony Amiel is the marketing manager for Distinctive Appliances Inc., a family-run business that, for 33 years, has been introducing European kitchen products to Canada.

"We work with 12 brands from around the world that we find interesting and bring value to the consumers in the kitchen lifestyle," says Amiel.

Products like the Android Chef. With a sleek, flat front, built in LCD touch screen and Venetian glass handle, Bertazzoni's oven has both beauty and brains. This is not your mother's stove.

"Everybody wants to show off right? So everybody likes to make the perfect roast when they have their guests over. It's nice to have an assistant," says Amiel.

With condo suites getting smaller and smaller, the challenge for builders is to provide small-footprint appliances with all the benefits of a full-sized kitchen.

The Bertazzoni line of European origin specializes in this kind of condo-style product.

They have traditional four-burner ranges with either a gas or electric option in a 24-inch format. It's 75 per cent the size, but it does just as much.

There's also the Blomberg line of smart, condo-sized appliances.

"We're in the midst of introducing an 18-inch dishwasher with either a panel front or stainless," says Amiel. "Again, we're in the small condo space. You still have the same technology — a dishwasher with multiple life-cycles, all stainless steel interior. It's just a slightly skinnier version.

"Colour is in increasing demand. People like colours that pop. It makes a statement, it speaks to who they are and the kind of design cues they're looking for."

Viking's D3 line has handles and inserts on fridges and dishwashers and ranges in a variety of progressive colours that can easily be changed in less than half an hour, giving the kitchen a whole new look.

If you'd like to see and try these marvellous actual working appliances, head up to Distinctive Appliance's brand new showroom at SOFA, the showrooms for the design trade located in the International Centre at 6900 Airport Rd.

At the Distinctive Appliances Kitchen Lifestyle Centre at SOFA, a Viking 60 inch Custom Range in Lemonade is customizable in over 20 colours, has a 12 inch-wide griddle/simmer plate and 12 inch-wide char-grill, as well as the largest capacity oven in the industry, $17,059. Inset, Bertazzoni's six burner gas range in Rosso Red is painted in an Italian sports car factory, $6,079. COURTESY DISTINCTIVE APPLIANCES INC.

The developer won't take my money!

I am purchasing a new condo from a developer and we are approaching interim possession whereby we occupy the property but we don't yet own it. We have requested that we put down the rest of the monies due and payable on the unit from our existing line of credit, but have been refused. The developer wants us to carry the costs of the outstanding balance until the final closing date, when we take ownership of the property. Why would they not want our money now?

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

On interim occupancy, there is generally an outstanding amount that is due and payable to the developer, which is financed and carried by the new owner until the title to the property is transferred.

If the new owner wishes to put all of the amount down, the developer will usually have to hold that amount in trust, which means that those funds are not available to the builder to help finish the property. You should be aware that at the time of interim occupancy, the entire project will not be complete. Often times, the hallways need work, the common spaces are not finished and items such as gyms, spas and even parking are not entirely functional. The developer needs that extra cash to finish off the project.

You should also consider the fact that generally, the cost of carrying the outstanding balance is less expensive when you use the builder's financing rather than a line of credit. Typically, the cost of carrying the excess balance due through the developer is 3.1 per cent. Unsecured lines of credit are four per cent. So, the numbers lean in favour of not paying down the balance unless you have spare cash lying around not earning a comparable income.

How to find a star contractor for your job

MARY ANN GEORGANTOPOULOS
Metro World News in New York City

When it's time to re-do your kitchen, you likely won't be hammering in the new cabinets — that's the contractor's job.

While Amy Matthews was promoting the launch of HomeAdvisor, a website that matches home owners to home improvement contractors, the licensed contractor and host of DIY Network's Sweat Equity and Bathroom Renovations offered tips on how to find the best person for your project.

Hire a legitimate contractor
"You have to know they're licensed and insured," Matthews says about finding a dependable contractor.

"You want to make sure you're getting someone good from a reliable source." She suggests using tools like HomeAdvisor's Pro Finder, which does background checks on all contractors in its database.

Find someone you like
Matthews suggests meeting with two or three contractors.

If they're all pricing the project around the same range, she recommends picking the one you get along with best.

"There are so many decisions to be made. You'll be calling them, they'll be calling you, so you need to have good communication or you'll be stressed out."

Communicate your schedule
Touch base regularly with your contractor about any scheduling issues that might arise.

"If your contractor can't start because a product didn't arrive, they're going to take that other job," Matthews says.

Put it in writing
Before starting, it's important to have a written agreement with a contractor for how long the project will take, Matthews advises.

"You should never give more than 30 per cent up front," she says. "Thirty per cent should be given midway through and the remaining per cent upon completion."

Know what you want
When planning a renovation, know exactly what design you want before hiring a contractor.

"The best thing you can do for yourself is research," Matthews says. "If you start your project and you're still designing in your mind, it's going to cost you a lot more."

Amy Matthews HOMEADVISOR

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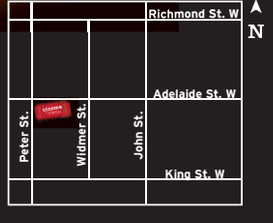

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Baby's room DIY projects

A new baby is a bundle of joy that also costs a bundle of cash. Nursery decor is one area where new parents can save some money by creating their own design elements. Design bloggers share four easy, drool-worthy projects to give baby's room that special touch.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Decoupage tree

Wall trees have become a popular trend in nursery decor. Try this project in lieu of a pricey vinyl decal. **FROM PAM GINOCCHIO AND MELISA FLUHR, PROJECTNURSERY.COM**

Materials

- Scrapbook paper (any size), about 20 sheets for a 6-foot tree
- Mod Podge matte finish
- Scissors
- 2-inch-wide paintbrush or foam craft brush
- Ladder or step stool

Step 1
Take fabric swatches from your baby's bedding to a crafts or paper store, and grab a mix of printed, solid and glittered papers in the same colour family.
Step 2
Start building the tree at the part of the trunk where the limbs begin to branch off. Cut or tear the paper (imperfect edges give a vintage feel), making each branch the thickness and length you want. Apply the Mod Podge to the back of each piece with the paintbrush or craft brush, and press the scrap against the wall. With this glue, the piece will be movable at first if you don't like your initial placement.
Step 3
Let it grow! As the limbs reach out and up, tear the paper thinner, just like on a real tree. Create the tree trunk with various-size scraps of paper using a collage technique. For a cute addition, hang the baby's name off a low branch that reaches out across the crib.
Step 4
Stack some of the leftover paper and cut out simple leaves. Cluster them along the branches. You can adorn the tree with birds, butterflies or even rhinestones.

Fabric mirror

Materials

- Fabric scraps
- Fabric stiffener
- aluminum foil
- Craft store mirror
- Cardboard
- String
- Super glue

Step 1
When you design a space for a little one, chances are you'll end up with leftover fabric. This project is a great way to use up those scraps. Lay the fabric on pieces of aluminum foil. Brush fabric stiffener onto the material and smooth out bubbles or wrinkles. Let dry completely, then peel off the foil.
Step 2
Sketch a lion or other animal onto a piece of paper and cut it out. Trace the shapes onto the back of the stiffened fabric. Cut out fabric shapes. The fabric stiffener will prevent the edges from unraveling.
Step 3
Cut a small scrap of cardboard smaller than the mirror. Punch two holes and tie a string through them. Glue the cardboard onto the back of the mirror. This will allow you to hang the fabric mirror when it's finished.
Step 4
Cut a large circle inside the lion's mane (or the face of your animal). Line up the mirror in the hole and glue it to the back of the fabric so the edges are hidden. Let everything dry completely, then hang.
FROM CARRIE MCBRIDE, APARTMENTTHERAPY.COM

Pretty as a picture frame mobile

Materials

- Printed papers or fabrics
- Small frames
- One larger frame
- About three yards of ribbon, divided into four uneven sections
- Decorative paper
- Photos or art reduced to fit small frames
- Four screw eyes
- Fishing line or thin wire
- Glue stick
- Paint
- Polyurethane

Step 1
Paint the frames to make them colourful. Some may need a light sanding first. Add a coat of polyurethane after the paint is dry.
Step 2
If any of your frames has a support arm on the back to prop it up, pull it off. You want the back of the mini frame to be completely smooth.
Step 3
Put your photos or artwork in the small frames. (You could use abstract art, photos of vintage trucks or pictures of baby's cousins, for instance.)
Step 4
To connect two small frames vertically, run the ribbon behind the artwork but inside the frame back. Cut a piece of decorative paper the same size as each frame back and, with a glue stick, paste it on.
Step 5
Remove the glass and backing from the large frame. Hang the four pairs of small frames from the large frame by twisting four screw eyes into the back of the large frame and then tying a ribbon to each screw eye.
Step 6
Tie a length of fishing line or thin wire to each screw eye, then tie all four pieces together so the mobile hangs evenly. Knot the end for attaching to a ceiling hook.
FROM CARRIE MCBRIDE, APARTMENTTHERAPY.COM

Clean and colourful dresser drawers

You can get a similar effect from contact paper, which comes in a wide variety of colours and patterns. But you can make your own if you're looking for a different look.
FROM SHERRY AND JOHN PETERSIK, YOUNGHOUSELOVE.COM

Materials

- Foam craft brushes
- Mod Podge matte finish
- Six sheets of patterned, heavy-duty wrapping paper (or swatches of colourful wallpaper or fabric)

Step 1
Wipe the insides of the drawers with a moist rag. If they're musty, wipe them with mineral spirits or Murphy's Oil Soap and let them air dry in the sun.
Step 2
After selecting six sheets of wrapping paper (or however many drawers you have), cut the sheets down to the size of the drawers. If all the drawers are the same size, use the first rectangle as a template.
Step 3
Apply a thin, even coat of Mod Podge adhesive to the bottom of the first drawer. Mod Podge is 100 per cent water-based, so it won't stink up baby's clothes.
Step 4
Glue the cut-to-size paper rectangle to the bottom of the drawer by pressing it along the centre and out towards the corners to eliminate bubbles or wrinkling. Repeat steps 3 and 4 for all drawers.
Step 5
Give the drawers four hours to dry, then apply a thin top coat of Mod Podge over the paper to protect against wear and tear. Let everything dry overnight and you're left with fresh, durably lined drawers that provide a little dose of happy every time they're opened.

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1

Waiter! We take a look at some of the more stylish ways to serve those cocktails and canapés.

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News in London

8 trays for serving up some treats

2

Bernardaud Pensees large round tray

$1,145, bloomingdales.com

Fornasetti Bacio tray

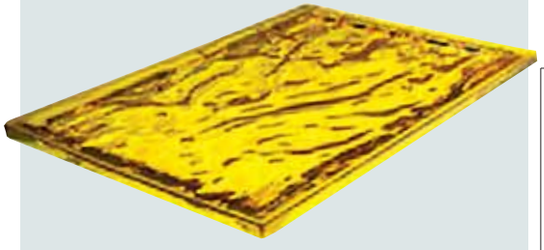
$158
barneys.com

3

4

Kartell Dune (Mario Bellini) tray

$82, yoox.com



7

Cath Kidston Spray Flowers small melamine tray

$19, cathkidston.eu

8

Ibride Ambroise tray

$148
madeindesign.co.uk

5

Anthropologie Tragara serving tray

$45, anthropologie.com

6

Ikea Bärbar tray

$7, ikea.com

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Helping a living room grow up

I live alone in an apartment that I rent. My living room is a good size (12-by-16) and I get nice sun light. I want to redecorate, and I am sick of seeing my oversized brown couch. I don't want my small apartment to look small and want it to feel more grown up.
-Sandra, Montreal

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Find a few things in the room that you love and build the room around them.

The rug, for instance, is a classic, and although pink, Persian-style rugs are not the biggest rage at this time, your quality rug can stay in the room as long as you build around the colours and classic style. I have chosen a palette of greys and pinks to play off the carpet and give the room a sophisticated, feminine look.

The first thing to do is to get your furniture ordered, which will often take a few weeks. This will give you time to clear out the living room and paint the walls. Wait until the furniture is in place before deciding on lighting, artwork and small accessories. This will give you a better idea as to what is needed.

Designer touches

- Hang a large mirror over your new sofa to bounce light into the room.
- Add dark grey drapery panels on each side of the window to soften the room.
- Choose a medium-wood tone for picture framing in the room to tie in the floors and furnishings.
- Add decorative cushions — patterned ones on the plain sofa and plain ones on the patterned chairs.

Before

Sandra's living room needed to grow up in terms of style and decor.

Paint

The simplest way to change the look of the room is to add colour to the walls. I suggest a deep pink brick colour. This will help tie in the Persian-style rug that is currently in the room. Lip Gloss, Benjamin Moore.

New sofa, $2,100

I suggest a foggy blue/grey coloured sofa to help cool down the room and give it a sophisticated feel. Tailor Sofa, Crate & Barrel.

TV stand, $600

A sleek media centre will be a better option than the crate that currently holds the television. Demio Media Shelf, Structube.

Side chairs, $600

Purchase two upholstered side chairs and place them in front of the window, separated with a small side table. RUSS Chair, Urban Barn.

Storage, $650

Ground the entrance wall with a stylish wardrobe to keep coats, shoes and sports equipment hidden away. PAX Wardrobe, Ikea.

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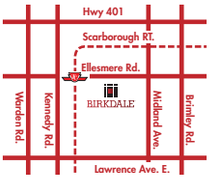

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Chrome handles should be cleaned with care. ISTOCK IMAGES

Watch out for harsh chemicals on chrome

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

I have some furniture that has chrome handles. Is there any particular way I should be cleaning this?

Any metal with chrome plating is generally a very thin layer. Harsh or abrasive chemicals will damage this over time.

The good news is that a multi-purpose cleaner (50 per cent water and 50 per cent white vinegar) is all that is necessary.

If you prefer, a simple window cleaner such as Windex will also do the trick perfectly.

Solar thermal system

A green alternative to water heating

Is a solar thermal system a good way to heat our household water?
-Karl, Mississauga, Ont

QUEEN OF GREEN
Tovah Paglaro
green@metronews.ca

Hot water is the second largest draw on household energy — right after space heating — and represents about 30 per cent of total energy use in our homes. So you are right to be turning to the sun for green alternatives.

Solar thermal systems convert sunlight into heat for household water through solar collectors mounted on roofs. Water, or a water and antifreeze solution, carries heat from the collectors and pumps it through a heat exchanger to warm water for a hot-water storage tank. From there, it's ready for your bath and home.

A typical system requires about six square metres of sloped, south-facing roof, with minimal shading from nearby trees and buildings. An abundance of sunny weather is not a prerequisite. Solar energy comes from the light generated by the sun — not just from direct sunlight — so even on cloudy days the sun can generate enough energy for up to 60 per cent of domestic hot-water needs.

Although solar thermal systems aren't cheap to install, the savings associated with reduced dependency on fossil fuels may well offset your long-term costs. This is especially true of systems installed for summer use — like those for pools or cabins — where costly freeze protection packages aren't required.

A solar heating system will also add value to your home. Municipal and provincial governments are in various stages of approving legislation requiring new homes to be "solar ready." It will bolster your credibility with your green neighbours and earn a great big thumbs-up from me.

Once you've done a little research to determine if your municipality or local utility company has rules or rebates that pertain to solar heating, the next step towards installing a system is to contact a solar company and request a free assessment. Professionals can assess your home's suitability and the potential costs, and may even recommend other popular solar options that could be better-suited to your particulars.

Solar thermal technologies aren't new, but you'll likely be an innovator in your community.

Organizations like the Canadian Solar Industries Association (CanSIA) have resources to help you along the way.

Even on cloudy days, the sun can generate enough energy for up to 60 per cent of domestic hot-water needs. ISTOCK IMAGES

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Just when you thought it was safe...

Each week, the hosts of House Hazards explore some of the most unexpected dangers in our own homes. Recreating blazing kitchen grease fires, erupting vacuum cleaners and bursting helium tanks is all in a day's work. Best to listen to their advice on the top five hidden hazards you might experience in your home.
House Hazards airs Tuesdays at 10 p.m. ET/PT on HGTV Canada.

1 Junk drawer

Lots of people have junk drawers in their house, where they throw all types of common household items.

But, if you put some items together in that drawer — like spare batteries and a steel wool dish scrubber — the combination can actually create a hazard and result in a small fire.

2 Microwave

A microwave alone isn't a hazard … necessarily. But place the wrong household item inside and you can end up with some hazardous results. If you place whole eggs inside, the microwave's energy boils the eggs from inside the shells until they explode. Forgot to take the aluminum foil off your baked potato? You'll end up with plasma and fire created by the energy of the microwave on the metal.

3 Clothes dryer

Ignoring the lint buildup in your dryer's filter can actually cause clothes dryer fires.

The lint can ignite if it comes into contact with the dryer's heating coils, creating a serious fire hazard.

4 Kitchen sink

Did you know that people actually clean their toilet seats more often than they do their kitchen sinks?

The kitchen sink is used for all sorts of potentially hazardous activities, from rinsing raw meat, which can contain salmonella and other bacteria, to the household mop.

5 Grease fires

At room temperature, cooking oil is not flammable.

But when it's heated up past 200 degrees Celsius, it can catch fire. Hot oil can be especially dangerous if water is dropped into it. Water is heavier than oil, and sinks to the bottom of the pot, where it turns to steam and expands. This can push the oil up and out of the pot and onto your stove's burner.

This is also why you should never try to put out a grease fire with water. This reaction will actually spread the fire, rather than extinguish it.

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Pros share their pumpkin-carving secrets

Halloween. You can't stop your pumpkin from deteriorating, but there are some 'delay tactics'

Think you know the latest tricks for carving a creepy pumpkin? The pros continue to push the barriers.

A handful of people become professional pumpkin carvers each fall, specializing in fantastical designs. Among them are Alex Wer, self-proclaimed pumpkin geek, who lives near Sacramento, Calif., Scott Cummins, a Perryton, Texas middle-school art teacher and Marc Evan and Chris Soria, the Maniac Pumpkin Carvers of New York City.

Wer does his carving between insurance sales and an evening package-delivery route.

He works with the fake, foam pumpkins sold at craft stores, so his intricate work has longevity. Evan and Soria drop their jobs as illustrators for a few months to carve pumpkins for festivals, parties and individual clients. The long hours leave the two childhood friends battling sore wrists and aching backs by late November.

"It's a labour of love," says Evan, who also carves pumpkins on the Food Network's Halloween Wars this season.

Here are some of their tips of the trade:

1. Choose your pumpkin wisely

"You want to have a stem, and you want it to be a healthy stem, because that stem is still providing nutrients for the pumpkin," says Soria.

Don't cut into your pumpkin around that perfect stem. Instead, access the pumpkin from its backside to help preserve freshness. Cutting out a stem cap weakens the Jack-o'-lantern, says Evan. And hiding the opening in the back gives the pumpkin more visual punch.

"It's esthetically more pleasing seeing the glow from (only) the design, not creeping out from where we might have cut the hole at the top," says Evan.

2. Preparing your pumpkin

Before carving a face, scrape and clean the inside of the pumpkin. The cleaner you get it, the longer it will last.

"I always tell people, 'Gut it out twice as much as you think you need to,'" says Wer. "It should be very dry inside."

The Maniac Pumpkin Carvers' interpretation of Starry Night, by Vincent van Gogh, left, which was commissioned by the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, where it was displayed in the lobby last Halloween. Right, a bird house scene carved on a pumpkin. MANIAC PUMPKIN CARVERS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3. The carve

Folks, there are two kinds of pumpkin carvings — the lighted Jack-o'-lantern face and the three-dimensional sculpture, in which a pumpkin is treated like a block of wood — only stinky and less permanent. The Maniac team carves both styles. Cummins carves in creepy 3D. The tools are the same, but they're used in different ways.

Take either carve up a notch by adding depth and texture. Wer carves up to five layers in his faux pumpkins to get a mix of light and shadow for a photorealistic quality.

Learn this skill, called shading, by scraping part of your design into the gourd.

"It just creates this new layer and this multi-level depth," says Wer.

Need more help? Check out pumpkin-carving tutorials, such as those posted by The Pumpkin Lady on YouTube.

4. More about tools

The Maniac team favours tools from the kitchen or garage, primarily paring knives, graters and saws. They tout linoleum cutters and sculpting tools.

Linoleum cutters have several gouge tips. Evan likes the V-gouge for making precise cuts, whether shallow or deep. Ceramists' sculpting tools are metal loops on a stick — in various shapes and sizes — that can be purchased at art supply and craft stores. They slice smoothly through pumpkin rind.

Those cheap pumpkin-carving kits? All four of our expert carvers love them.

The Maniac team uses the orange plastic scoop to clean out hundreds of pumpkins — fast. Cummins uses the scoop too, and praises the kit's flimsy, serrated blade.

"Don't underestimate that little saw," Cummins says. "Sometimes there is a need to cut slowly and deliberately, and that is when the little saw is indispensable."

5. Preservation

Once a pumpkin is carved, it begins to deteriorate.

"You will certainly notice a difference in 24 hours," says Cummins in his online tutorial.

Says Evan: "You can't preserve a pumpkin. We recommend 'delay' tactics."

Those include:

• When a Jack-o'-lantern is not on display, Wer says, give it a bath. He has had as many as eight pumpkins bobbing overnight in his bathtub.

• Preserve cut edges with a lemon juice-water mixture, says the Maniac team. Then seal them with vegetable oil or petroleum jelly. Store your carving in the refrigerator or wrap it in plastic wrap and store in a cool place.

• And quick, take a photo. It's the "best and most essential way to preserve your creation," says Cummins.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Pumpkin carving is definitely not the easiest way to make money. It's not a 'get rich quick' scheme."

Marc Evan, professional pumpkin carver

In this new insider real-estate series, the four owner-operators of Conservatory Group — Libfeld brothers Sheldon, Mark, Jay and Corey — will share their first-person insights on the housing market in the Greater Toronto Area. The Markham-based, family-owned company has been building homes for Torontonians for more than 50 years.

Opportunity talks

Why the right time to buy real estate in Toronto is always *right now*

SHELDON **LIBFELD**

I'm often asked, "When is the right time to buy a home?" Conventional wisdom says, "Sell high, buy low." I say, "Buy *now* to buy low."

GTA real estate experts know that Toronto is undervalued by comparison to other world-class cities like London, New York and Paris. Any way you calculate them, our prices are much lower; they've been rising recently but they're still nowhere near the prices in those other cities. Will our prices keep rising and eventually achieve parity with those other international destinations? Absolutely — and here's why.

Toronto is in a unique economic real estate situation: constantly rising demand and constantly falling supply. When these two lines cross — as they're doing right now — only one thing can happen: prices rise. We've seen this happen in Toronto for the last 16 consecutive years, with annual home prices increasing an average of approximately 6 per cent.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) most recent global liveability report, Toronto ranked as the world's 4th-most liveable city. Close to 100,000 people a year, from both within Canada and internationally, come here to make a new life. Based on the provincial average of about 2.8 persons per household, 100,000 people require 35,000 homes. Some will rent, but most want their own piece of real estate, and opt to purchase a low-rise home.

The problem is, we're not building 35,000 low-rise homes per year in Toronto. In 2011, slightly less than 17,500 new units were sold and, to date in 2012, the figure is around 11,000. Some of this shortfall is taken up by high-rise construction, but not much: a high-rise takes three or four years to build. And constant demand only puts upward pressure on prices.

Let's discuss the idea of supply — of *expanding* real estate development in the GTA. At Conservatory Group, that's what we do. We develop new living spaces for communities and municipalities across the GTA, from low-rise townhomes to high-rise condos, in a wide range of locations, from the suburbs to the downtown core. We'd love to build 35,000 new homes — we'd get started tomorrow!

But here's an important factor to consider: supply is limited by available land. Legislation to preserve, undeveloped, areas such as the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Greenbelt, has reduced the GTA's available land supply. I'm not saying that it isn't important to preserve environmentally sensitive lands — of course it's important. But I am saying that, while there might seem to be a great deal of developable land available, this is simply not the case.

The properties of the Upper Beach Villas, located at Main and Gerrard Streets, will be the last group of homes developed in that area.

Beyond supply is the regulatory process necessary to obtain approval for any new community. Getting a community from an official plan designation to breaking ground takes between two to five years. To complicate matters, not all levels of government are investing in infrastructure (sanitary and storm sewers, watermains, roads, etc.). And without infrastructure in place, even *approved* communities cannot proceed.

Here's something else to consider. The development charges (DCs) for new housing — fees levied by municipalities, which are charged to developers — are also on the increase. Sensible enough, these charges cover infrastructure costs, but they inevitably impact pricing. According to a March 2011 report by RESCON (Residential Construction Council of Ontario), on average, charges and taxes from all levels of government add approximately 25 per cent to the cost of a new home..

At Conservatory Group, we have several built communities now available for purchase and in a range of GTA locations, from Ajax to Milton and from Lake Ontario up to Richmond Hill.

One community that I'd like to highlight is the Upper Beach Villas — one of the very last infill projects in this city — located at Main and Gerrard, close to downtown Toronto. The DCs on these properties, which span up to 1,700 square feet, have already been paid. Even better, Upper Beach Villas were built before DCs were increased. These properties will be the last group of homes for this community.

My message to you today is *about* today, because *right now* is the time to buy real estate in Toronto. The future — whether it's next year or next decade, or longer — can only bring higher housing prices.

Sheldon Libfeld is co-partner of the Conservatory Group.

This is the second of a six-part series. Look for the next column on Thursday, November 1.

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	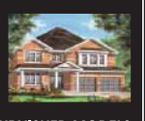		
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SPORTS 4

Kadri gets kudos from coach

AHL. Marlies forward says it has taken time to wrap his head around the level of commitment needed on year-round basis

Quoted

"I feel a lot better. Once pucks start going in net for me, I think the results are going to come."

Nazem Kadri

It wasn't that long ago that Marlies coach Dallas Eakins had some fairly harsh criticism of Nazem Kadri and his unacceptable levels of body fat.

Now, just a few weeks into the AHL season, the coach heaped praise upon the 2009 first-round draft pick for his fitness training.

"He has been excellent over the last three weeks or so," Eakins said of Kadri, a former London Knight. "I wanted him to bring his commitment up a little bit more, from his nutrition, to his work in the gym, to his work ethic.

"He's made great, great strides. His diet. I see him in the gym all the time. I'm getting positive reports from our fitness guy (Mark Fitzgerald). He's upped his pace in practice."

Eakins called out Kadri on the first day of Marlies camp, saying his body-fat level was too high. The outcry that followed — fans seemed despondent at the news — surprised him.

Kadri has only two assists in five games — not the level expected. So Eakins rejigged his lines. Kadri is skating on a line now with Mike Zigomanis and Ryan Hamilton.

But even though he hasn't scored yet, Eakins says he isn't worried about Kadri's production because he's getting a ton of chances.

"He's going to get his full share of points," said Eakins.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Marlies forward Nazem Kadri fails to score past Griffins goalie Tom McCollum in a shootout Sunday in Toronto. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

New York Islanders to call Brooklyn home

Workers sweep in front of the Barclays Center in Brooklyn in September. The New York Islanders will move there from Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale, N.Y. KATHY WILLEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Now hockey is coming to Brooklyn.

The NHL's New York Islanders have agreed to move to the Barclays Center starting with the 2015-16 season.

"Hello Brooklyn!" Islanders owner Charles Wang said as he made the announcement at a news conference Wednesday. The lease deal is for 25 years.

Officials in nearby Nassau County, N.Y., have struggled for years to come up with a plan to either renovate or build a new arena to replace the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, which opened in 1972. Wang, the founder of a computer software company, presented a plan in 2003 for a privately funded multibillion-dollar development of housing, retail and a new arena on the property, but the proposal foundered amid community opposition.

Lockout

The NHL's labour talks have entered a dark period.

- It's now a virtual certainty that a full schedule won't be played, with commissioner Gary Bettman saying Wednesday that "it looks like an 82-game season (for each team) is not going to be a reality."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wang had long threatened to move the team from its home in Uniondale after the club's lease expired following the 2014-15 season. He complained that the dilapidated building is unsuited for a professional sports franchise.

"Brooklyn is big time and now we have the big-league sports to prove it," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

Long Island fans seemed resigned to the move for a team that won the Stanley Cup every year from 1980 through 1983 but missed the playoffs the last five seasons.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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‘Knothole gang’ gathers for free look at World Series

Giants third baseman Pablo Sandoval hits a first-inning home run off of Tigers starter Justin Verlander in Game 1 of the World Series on Wednesday night in San Francisco. CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

MLB. Chain-link fence in left field gives San Francisco fans rare view of baseball heroes

They’re teens skipping school and adults driving through the night to line up before dawn in soggy San Francisco — all for a chance to watch a few innings of the World Series for free.

The die-hard fans are known as the “knothole gang,” a group prepared to endure all sorts of discomfort for their Giants, just as they did at AT&T Park in 2010 when the team battled the Texas Rangers, and again this September and throughout the playoffs.

Early Wednesday, fans began lining up again, and the queue kept growing as game time approached.

From the park’s “knothole,” the lucky ones share the same vantage point as Giants right fielder Hunter Pence, peering through a chain-link fence enclosing four viewing portals stretching about 100 feet under the right-field stands. They’ll shake the fence and scream insults at the opposing right fielder, who stands just feet away.

There is no other place like it in the Major Leagues. The Giants’ ballpark is the only stadium in the country with the feature, but there are rules: No chairs, dogs or drinking. And every three innings, security rotates people in and out.

But for those who lined up 12 hours or more before the first pitch, the price was right.

“I could afford maybe one ticket, but not a ticket for everyone,” said Tony Bryson, 44, who travelled from Sacramento with his two sons and three of their friends to secure a spot. They arrived around 7 a.m.

Bryson and his group also viewed the 2010 World Series from the “knothole” area and they and the other regulars wouldn’t have it any other way.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Go to metronews.ca/sports for coverage of Game 1 of the World Series.

Drug discipline

Giants will go for title minus Melky

Melky Cabrera GETTY IMAGES FILE

Giants manager Bruce Bochy reiterated San Francisco will not add all-star game MVP Melky Cabrera to the World Series roster following the end of his 50-game drug suspension.

Reliever Guillermo Mota has been part of the team’s post-season roster following his 100-game suspension for a second violation for a positive test of Clenbuterol, which he said was in children’s cough syrup.

Cabrera was suspended Aug. 15 for 50 games after testing positive for testosterone. The ban ended with the completion of the NLDS.

“I think they’re two different situations, really. I mean, one happened during the season with Mota, and he was available to help us out during the season. So we made a spot there for him. Now, with Melky, we felt when that happened, as far as losing him, the club played very well, and the guys that we had been putting out there have done the job. They’ve earned this, and this is the way we’re going to move forward.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ormpo Bttry	5880748603	$2.99
Fleecy Sheets 80EA		$4.69 H
Maxx Multi Cat 7KG		$7.49 H
SUBTOTAL		$37.56
TOTAL TAX		$1.77
TOTAL		$39.33
TENDER		$39.33
CHANGE		$0.00

NUMBER OF ITEMS 12

09/20/12
15:26:38

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STORE #3115
WINDSOR ONTARIO

FR STRAWB	005960007017	$1.97 J
PLAIN YOG 6	006820075015	$2.97 D
CHEEZ WHIZ	006810001022	$5.17 D
CH PRE FRVAN	006294200022	$5.87 D
MIN MAID OJ	005960001006	$2.47 D
DM CARROTS	006000047200	$1.37 D
PRIMO SAUCE	005590000662	$1.47 D
FLKS HAM	006310023150	$2.17 D
MAYO	006840066260	$5.17 D
ORV MOVIEBTR	005880748603	$3.47 D
FABRIC SOFT	005800000366	$4.97 J
CAT LITTER	007023011686	$7.98 J
SUBTOTAL		$45.05
HST 13%		$1.94
TOTAL		$46.99
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09/20/12 14:30:34

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MLB

WORLD SERIES

(Best-of-7)
San Francisco (N.L.) vs. Detroit (A.L.)
Wednesday's result
Detroit at San Francisco
Thursday's game
Detroit (Fister 10-10) at San Francisco (Bumgarner 16-11), 8:07 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 27
San Francisco (Vogelsong 14-9) at Detroit (Sanchez 4-6), 8:07 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 28
San Francisco (Cain 16-5) at Detroit (Scherzer 16-7), 8:15 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 29
x-San Francisco at Detroit, 8:07 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 31
x-Detroit at San Francisco, 8:07 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 1
x-Detroit at San Francisco, 8:07 p.m.
x — If necesssary.

LATE MONDAY

GIANTS 9, CARDINALS 0

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Jay cf	4	0	1	0	1	2	.207
Beltran rf	4	0	1	0	1	0	.300
Holliday lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.200
Craig 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.125
Y.Molina c	4	0	4	0	0	0	.393
Freese 3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.192
Descalso 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.200
d-T.Cruz ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Motte p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Kozma ss	3	0	0	0	1	2	.227
Lohse p	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
J.Kelly p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Mujica p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
a-Chambers ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Rosenthal p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
b-S.Robinson ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Boggs p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Salas p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Schumaker 2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Totals	**34**	**0**	**7**	**0**	**4**	**8**	
San Francisco	**AB**	**R**	**H**	**BI**	**BB**	**SO**	**Avg.**
Pagan cf	5	1	2	1	0	1	.242
Scutaro 2b	4	1	3	0	1	0	.500
Sandoval 3b	4	1	1	1	1	0	.310
S.Casilla p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Ja.Lopez p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Romo p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Posey c	4	1	1	0	1	0	.154
Pence rf	5	1	2	2	0	2	.179
Belt 1b	5	2	2	1	0	0	.304
G.Blanco lf	3	2	1	0	2	0	.182
B.Crawford ss	4	0	1	1	0	1	.217
M.Cain p	3	0	1	1	0	2	.400
Affeldt p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
c-A.Huff ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.200
Arias 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Totals	**38**	**9**	**14**	**7**	**5**	**6**	

St. Louis	000	000	000	—0	7	2
San Francisco	115	000	11X	—9	14	0

a-lined out for Mujica in the 5th. b-struck out for Rosenthal in the 7th. c-grounded into a double play for Affeldt in the 7th. d-struck out for Descalso in the 8th.
E—Jay (1), Kozma (2). LOB—St. Louis 12, San Francisco 10. 2B—Sandoval (2), Pence (1). HR—Belt (1), off Motte. RBIs—Pagan (2), Sandoval (6), Pence 2 (3), Belt (2), B.Crawford (5), M.Cain (1). SB—Beltran (2), Descalso (1). Runners left in scoring position—St. Louis 9 (Craig 2, Lohse 2, Descalso, T.Cruz 2, Holliday 2); San Francisco 4 (Pence, Sandoval 2, Belt). RISP—St. Louis 0 for 11; San Francisco 3 for 14. Runners moved up—Beltran, Holliday, Sandoval, B.Crawford. GIDP—A.Huff.
DP—St. Louis 1 (Descalso, Kozma, Craig).

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lohse L, 1-1	2	6	5	5	1	1	46	7.04
J.Kelly	⅔	2	2	2	2	1	26	4.50
Mujica	1⅓	1	0	0	0	0	14	0.00
Rosenthal	2	1	0	0	1	4	34	0.00
Boggs	⅓	3	1	1	1	0	22	5.40
Salas	⅓	0	0	0	0	0	3	3.86
Motte	1	1	1	1	0	0	14	2.25
San Francisco	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
M.Cain W, 1-1	5⅔	5	0	0	1	4	102	2.19
Affeldt	1⅓	0	0	0	1	2	18	0.00
S.Casilla	⅔	2	0	0	0	0	17	0.00
Ja.Lopez	1	0	0	0	2	2	25	0.00
Romo	⅓	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.00

Lohse pitched to 3 batters in the 3rd.
Inherited runners-scored—J.Kelly 3-3, Mujica 3-0, Salas 2-0, Affeldt 2-0, Ja.Lopez 2-0, Romo 2-0. HBP—by M.Cain (Holliday). WP—S.Casilla, Romo.
Umpires—Home, Gary Darling; First, Chris Guccione; Second, Bill Miller; Third, Greg Gibson; Right, Jerry Layne; Left, Ted Barrett.
T—3:35. A—43,056 (41,915).

AHL

Wednesday's results
Portland at St. John's
Connecticut at Albany
Milwaukee at Texas
Tuesday's results
St. John's 8 Portland 7 (OT)
Rochester 3 Hamilton 1
Oklahoma City 4 Lake Erie 3
Thursday's game
All Times Eastern
San Antonio at Rockford, 8:05 p.m.
Friday's games
Adirondack at Albany, 7 p.m.
Hershey at Connecticut, 7 p.m.
Charlotte at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Springfield at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
Rochester at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.
Toronto at Hamilton, 7:30 p.m.
Abbotsford at Lake Erie, 7:30 p.m.
Bridgeport at Worcester, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Peoria, 8:05 p.m.

NBA PRESEASON

Wednesday's results
New York vs. Brooklyn at Uniondale, NY, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Houston at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Dallas vs. Oklahoma City at Wichita, KS, 8 p.m.
Detroit vs. Minnesota at Winnipeg, Manitoba, 8 p.m.
Washington vs. Miami at Kansas City, MO, 8:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Tuesday's results
Indiana 100 Cleveland 82
Chicago 94 Oklahoma City 89
Golden State 107 Phoenix 92
At Raleigh, NC
Miami 98 Charlotte 92
Thursday's games
Milwaukee at Charlotte, 11 a.m.
Portland at Utah, 9 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Denver, 10 p.m.
At San Diego, CA
Sacramento vs. L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.
Friday's games
Houston at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Indiana vs. Chicago at South Bend, IN, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota vs. Milwaukee at Green Bay, WI, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Memphis, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Miami, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Washington at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Denver at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
y-Kansas City	33	17	7	9	40	26	60
x-D.C. United	33	17	10	6	52	42	57
x-Chicago	33	17	11	5	45	40	56
x-New York	33	15	9	9	54	46	54
x-Houston	33	14	8	11	48	39	53
Columbus	33	14	12	7	42	43	49
Montreal	33	12	15	6	45	50	42
Philadelphia	32	10	16	6	36	40	36
New England	33	8	17	8	38	44	32
Toronto	33	5	20	8	35	60	23

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
y-San Jose	33	19	6	8	71	42	65
x-Seattle	33	15	7	11	51	32	56
x-Real Salt Lake	33	17	11	5	46	35	56
x-Los Angeles	33	15	12	6	58	47	51
x-Vancouver	33	11	13	9	35	41	42
Dallas	33	9	13	11	40	45	38
Colorado	33	10	19	4	42	50	34
Portland	33	8	16	9	33	55	33
Chivas USA	33	7	18	8	22	56	29

x — Clinched playoff berth.
y — Clinched conference.
Note: Three points for a win, one for a tie.
Wednesday's result
Philadelphia at Kansas City

ENGLISH

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

Wednesday's result
Blackburn Rovers 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0

CONCACAF

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

FIRST ROUND
Group One
Santos Laguna (Mexico) vs. Toronto (Canada)
Group Six
Tigres (Mexico) vs. Alajuelense (Costa Rica)

UEFA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

FIRST ROUND
Group A
Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia) 0, Paris Saint-Germain (France) 2
Porto (Portugal) 3, Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine) 2
Group B
Arsenal (England) 0, Schalke (Germany) 2
Montpellier (France) 1, Olimpiakos (Greece) 2
Group C
Zenit St. Petersburg (Russia) 1, Anderlecht (Belgium) 0
Malaga (Spain) 1, AC Milan (Italy) 0
Group D
Ajax (Netherlands) 3, Manchester City (England) 1
Borussia Dortmund (Germany) 2, Real Madrid (Spain) 1

CFL

WEEK 18

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
y-Montreal	16	10	6	0	440	445	20
Toronto	16	7	9	0	371	425	14
Winnipeg	16	5	11	0	339	492	10
Hamilton	16	5	11	0	470	515	10

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
y-B.C.	16	12	4	0	441	307	24
x-Calgary	16	10	6	0	464	382	20
x-Saskatchewan	16	8	8	0	425	361	16
Edmonton	16	7	9	0	370	393	14

x — Clinched playoff berth.
y — Clinched division.
Friday's game — All Times Eastern
B.C. at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Saturday's games
Winnipeg at Hamilton, 1 p.m.
Toronto at Saskatchewan, 4 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 28
Edmonton at Montreal, 1 p.m.

TENNIS

ATP VALENCIA OPEN

At Valencia, Spain
Wednesday's results
Singles — First Round
Gilles Muller, Luxembourg, def. Milos Raonic (8), Thornhill, Ont., 7-5, 7-6 (1).
Marcel Granollers, Spain, def. Jan Hajek, Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-4.
Second Round
David Goffin, Belgium, def. John Isner (5), United States, 7-6 (2), 4-6, 6-4.
Marin Cilic (7), Croatia, def. Fernando Verdasco, Spain, 6-1, 6-4.
Ivan Dodig, Croatia, def. Lleyton Hewitt, Australia, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2.

ATP WORLD TOUR SWISS INDOORS

At Basel, Switzerland
Singles — First Round
Benoit Paire, France, def. Andreas Seppi (5), Italy, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.
Paul-Henri Mathieu, France, def. Henri Laaksonen, Switzerland, 6-2, 7-5.
Marinko Matosevic, Australia, def. Florian Mayer (7), Germany, 6-2, 6-3.
Juan Martin del Potro (2), Argentina, def. Alejandro Falla, Colombia, 6-4, 6-1.
Second Round
Grigor Dimitrov, Bulgaria, def. Julien Benneteau, France, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (1), 7-6 (3).
Roger Federer (1), Switzerland, def. Thomaz Bellucci, Brazil, 6-3, 6-7 (6), 7-5.
Richard Gasquet (3), France, def. Marco Chiudinelli, Switzerland, 6-1, 6-4.

TEB BNP PARIBAS WTA CHAMPIONSHIPS

At Istanbul
Round Robin — Singles
Group A
Serena Williams (3), United States, def. Li Na (8), China, 7-6 (2), 6-3.
Victoria Azarenka (1), Belarus, def. Angelique Kerber (5), Germany, 6-7 (11), 7-6 (2), 6-4.
Standings: Williams 2-0 (sets 4-0); Azarenka 1-0 (2-1); Li 0-1 (0-2); Kerber 0-2 (1-4).
Group B
Maria Sharapova (2), Russia, def. Agnieszka Radwanska (4), Poland, 5-7, 7-5, 7-5.
Standings: Sharapova 2-0 (4-1); Radwanska 1-1 (3-2); Sara Errani 0-1 (0-2); w-Petra Kvitova 0-1 (0-2); a-Sam Stosur 0-0 (0-0).

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	4	3	0	.571	217	163
Miami	3	3	0	.500	120	117
N.Y. Jets	3	4	0	.429	159	170
Buffalo	3	4	0	.429	171	227

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	6	1	0	.857	216	128
Indianapolis	3	3	0	.500	117	158
Tennessee	3	4	0	.429	149	238
Jacksonville	1	5	0	.167	88	164

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	5	2	0	.714	174	161
Pittsburgh	3	3	0	.500	140	132
Cincinnati	3	4	0	.429	166	187
Cleveland	1	6	0	.143	147	180

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	3	3	0	.500	170	138
San Diego	3	3	0	.500	148	137
Oakland	2	4	0	.333	113	171
Kansas City	1	5	0	.167	104	183

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	5	2	0	.714	205	137
Philadelphia	3	3	0	.500	103	125
Dallas	3	3	0	.500	113	133
Washington	3	4	0	.429	201	200

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	6	0	0	1.000	171	113
New Orleans	2	4	0	.333	176	182
Tampa Bay	2	4	0	.333	148	136
Carolina	1	5	0	.167	106	144

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	5	1	0	.833	162	78
Minnesota	5	2	0	.714	167	131
Green Bay	4	3	0	.571	184	155
Detroit	2	4	0	.333	133	150

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	5	2	0	.714	165	100
Arizona	4	3	0	.571	124	118
Seattle	4	3	0	.571	116	106
St. Louis	3	4	0	.429	130	141

WEEK SEVEN

Monday's result
Chicago 13, Detroit 7
Sunday's results
Minnesota 21 Arizona 14
Green Bay 30 St. Louis 20
Houston 43 Baltimore 13
N.Y. Giants 27 Washington 23
Dallas 19 Carolina 14
New Orleans 35 Tampa Bay 28
Indianapolis 17 Cleveland 13
Tennessee 35 Buffalo 34
Oakland 26 Jacksonville 23 (0T)
New England 29 N.Y. Jets 26 (OT)
Pittsburgh 24 Cincinnati 17
Thursday's result
San Francisco 13 Seattle 6

WEEK EIGHT

Thursday's game
All Times Eastern
Tampa Bay at Minnesota, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 28
Jacksonville at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Miami at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Washington at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
New England vs. St. Louis at London, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Kansas City, 4:05 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
New Orleans at Denver, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 29
San Francisco at Arizona, 8:30 p.m.

GOLF

WEEKEND GLANCE

US PGA TOUR/ASIAN TOUR

CIMB CLASSIC
Site: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
Online: www.pgatour.com
Asian Tour site: www.asiantour.com

EUROPEAN TOUR

BMW MASTERS
Site: Shanghai.
Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
Online: www.europeantour.com

US LPGA TOUR

SUNRISE LPGA TAIWAN CHAMPIONSHIP
Site: Yang Mei, Taiwan.
Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
Online: www.lpga.com

CHAMPIONS TOUR

AT&T CHAMPIONSHIP
Site: San Antonio.
Schedule: Friday-Sunday.
Online: www.pgatour.com

TOURNAMENTS

MEN
WEB.COM TOUR: Web.com Tour Championship, Thursday-Sunday, TPC Craig Ranch, McKinney, Texas. **Online:** www.pgatour.com
JAPAN GOLF TOUR: Mynavi ABC Championship, Thursday-Sunday, ABC Golf Club, Hyogo, Japan. **Online:** http://www.jgto.org
PGA TOUR OF AUSTRALASIA: Western Australia Open, Thursday-Sunday, Royal Perth Golf Course, Perth, Australia. **Online:** pgatour.com.au
SUNSHINE TOUR: Sun Coast Classic, Thursday-Saturday, Durban Country Club, Durban, South Africa. **Online:** www.pgatour.co.za
EUROPEAN CHALLENGE TOUR: Apulia San Domenico Grand Final, Wednesday-Saturday, San Domenico Golf Club, Savelletri, Italy. **Online:** www.europeantour.com

WOMEN
LADIES EUROPEAN TOUR: China Suzhou Taihu Open, Friday-Sunday, Suzhou Taihu International Golf Club, Suzhou, China. **Online:** www.ladieseuropeantour.com
JAPAN LPGA TOUR: Hisako Higuchi Ladies, Friday-Sunday, Musashigaoka Golf Club, Saitama, Japan. **Online:** www.lpga.or.jp

European powerhouses knocked to the mat

Manchester City goalkeeper Joe Hart falls to the ground after a goal from Siem de Jong of Ajax during the UEFA Champions League Group D match at the Amsterdam Arena on Wednesday. European soccer's big reputations counted for nothing Wednesday as Real Madrid, AC Milan, Manchester City and Arsenal all lost. Nine-time European champion Real Madrid lost 2-1 at Borussia Dortmund, seven-time champion Milan's woeful season continued with a 1-0 loss at Malaga, while City blew a 1-0 lead on the way to a 3-1 defeat at Ajax, and Arsenal was humbled by a 2-0 home loss to German club Schalke. MIKE HEWITT/GETTY IMAGES

Argos running out of answers on defensive end

CFL. Toronto defence stymied by inability to stop ground attack

Argonauts coach Scott Milanovich and his players knew they had a bad game defending against the run in last week's 44-32 loss to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. They just didn't realize how bad.

By giving up 260 yards along the ground, the most all season, they have the dubious honour of having the CFL's second-worst run defence.

It's a startling statistic. About mid-season, the Argos had the second-best run defence and were challenging the B.C. Lions for No. 1.

With temperatures of 0 C and snow likely on Saturday in Regina, stopping Saskatchewan running back Kory Sheets will be crucial to beating the Roughriders.

"For real," linebacker Brandon Isaac said Wednesday when informed that Toronto has given up 1,875 net yards rushing, four more than Hamilton and 163 fewer than Edmonton, last in defending the rush.

"It's been a lack of attention to detail. Teams have been able to move the ball against us on first down and put themselves in second and short. So on second down, they can pass the ball, whereas earlier in the season, we were stopping the run on first down and making it second and long," Isaac said.

Despite three straight losses, the Argos can still clinch second place in the East and a home playoff date with a victory. If Hamilton loses to Winnipeg earlier on Saturday, the Argos will know they've made the playoffs by kickoff time.

"All our life, us defensive guys have been taught to hit and tackle," defensive tackle Kevin Huntley said. "We can make all the excuses in the world. The bottom line is we have to come off the ball better, stay in our gaps and make tackles. If we had done that against Winnipeg, we wouldn't be having this conversation."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Argos Robert McCune, left, and Marcus Ball try to stop Winnipeg running back Chad Simpson last Friday at Rogers Centre. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"What's changed? I don't know.... The will to win is still there, but it's just not going our way."

Argos linebacker Brandon Isaac

Doping fallout

Armstrong N.Y. marathon results could be purged

Lance Armstrong's results erased from the record books will likely include his 868th-place finish at the 2006 New York City Marathon.

Marathon organizer New York Road Runners said in a statement on Wednesday it expected to wipe out his times once any potential appeals play out, since the race follows USADA rulings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL. Williams OK after wrist 'procedure': Coach

Mario Williams is not expected to miss any games after the Buffalo Bills defensive end had what the team called "a procedure" to relieve discomfort in his injured left wrist.

Coach Chan Gailey provided the update Wednesday, saying he expects Williams to return to practice next week once the Bills return from their weekend off. Gailey was otherwise very short on specifics in sharing any other details regarding the status of the NFL's highest-paid defensive player.

Mario Williams GETTY IMAGES FILE

Gailey wouldn't reveal what the procedure was, where or when it took place, and even who determined it was necessary.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Personals

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You will go out of your way to prove you have what it takes, but don't go too far and do something that lands you in a lot of trouble. By all means, be adventurous but keep things in perspective too.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You may be tempted to take some kind of risk but the Sun linked to Saturn in your opposite sign warns that's not such a good idea. Try to think through the consequences of your actions before you take them.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
No matter how eager you may be to change your life for the better, you still need to invest a bit more time thinking things through. Your plans may never be watertight but they can be more realistic.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Your confidence is back and everyone is praising you to the skies. That is all very nice but you should be aware that some of those people don't really want to see you succeed. You know who they are.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
It might be tempting to get involved in a dispute of some kind but if you are smart, you will keep your distance. Nothing you do or say will change the situation one little bit, so leave well alone.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you allow other people to speak on your behalf, you will probably regret it. Either speak for yourself or keep your thoughts secret. In general, the less others know about your plans and ambitions, the better.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The Sun close to Saturn in the money area of your chart warns you need to be realistic about your cash flow situation. Don't spend it if you haven't got it — and, if you have got it, save it for later.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may think that nothing can harm you, that fortune favours you because you are bold. To an extent that is true, but don't get silly about it. Even Scorpios are human. Even Scorpios bleed. Be careful.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
To resolve a long running problem, you may need to team up with someone who knows more about a specific area than you do. You can make use of their knowledge and they can make use of your energy.

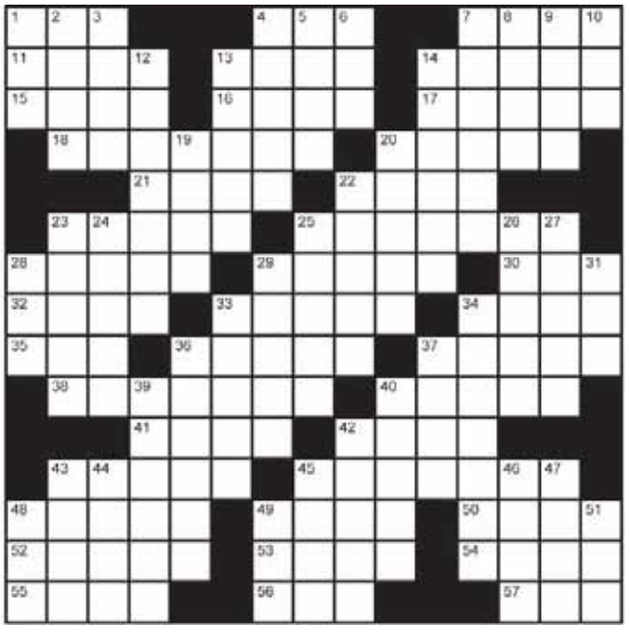
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Everything has its place and purpose. It is simply not true that we live in a meaningless universe. You may be a down to earth sort by nature but today you will want to dig deeper into life's mysteries.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Try not to take anything for granted today. And try not to let your fantasies take over your mind. Wishful thinking can be fun but it can also be dangerous. Reach for the stars but don't lose touch with reality.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
There is no point trying to force yourself to do something you don't enjoy because you won't do a good job at it. Either you give it one hundred per cent or you don't do it at all. What will it be? **SALLY BROMPTON**

This Puzzle Has No Title

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



Across
1. Occupied a chair
4. Astroturf rival
7. Desire
11. Biggest problems of some celebrities
13. Identical
14. Québec peninsula along the south shore of the Saint Lawrence River
15. Winnie-the-___
16. "Sad to say ..."
17. "On the ___ hand ...": "Here's a different idea ..."
18. BC's ___ National Park, in the Rockies near Revelstoke
20. Headquartered
21. A whole bunch
22. Jaguar or Mustang
23. ___-et-un: blackjack (from French for "21")
25. Side with the football
28. Assistants
29. Irritate by rubbing
30. A cheer
32. Member of a landscaping team who digs up weeds
33. Like nonvegetarian spaghetti sauces
34. Apple eater's throw-away
35. ___ mode: with ice cream (2 wds.)
36. Bookstore shelving category
37. "___ Lane": Beatles song
38. "Wild Rose Country" province
40. Infraction fees
41. Cabin material
42. Transmitted
43. Black playing card
45. Canada's most populous province
48. Cognizant of one's surroundings
49. ___-Ball: old arcade game
50. Makes a mistake
52. Challenges
53. Bauxite and galena
54. Insecticide ingredient
55. Adds color to
56. Place for a drink
57. Asian sauce type

Down
1. End-of-summer mo.
2. All ___: excited
3. Chisel or hammer
4. After-Christmas store events
5. *Rubáiyát* poet Khayyam, actor Sharif, or *House* actor Epps
6. ___ Moines, Iowa
7. Doctor who's Sherlock Holmes's sidekick
8. "How ___, Doc?": "What's his prognosis?" (2 wds.)
9. Exceeded the posted limit
10. That girl
12. Montréal-born *Star Trek* star William
13. Blessed one
14. Colonel Sanders, Mitch Miller, or the Devil's beard type
19. Gear teeth
20. Saskatchewan-born folk singer Sainte-Marie
22. ___ worse than death: dire outcome (2 wds.)
23. String quartet member
24. Worthy aim
25. Scarlett ___ of *Gone With the Wind*
26. Witch
27. Brings in, as a salary
28. "Gotcha!"
29. Change for a nickel
31. "Pay attention!"
33. Become one company
34. Moved to the middle
36. Hollow, crystal-lined stones
37. ___ colada: rum cocktail
39. Plays at maximum volume
40. Big celebrations
42. Villainous expression
43. Bend with the breeze
44. Peel
45. Southern US stew ingredient
46. Angers
47. Sandwich cookie
48. Also say
49. Bawl
51. Pig pen

Yesterday's Crossword

What's online

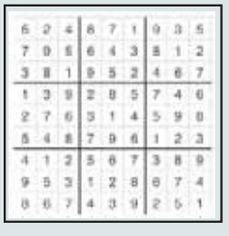
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

2	7		1		6		9	4
				3				
	1						8	
		7	5		4	6		
6								8
		2	9		3	1		
	5						2	
				1				
8	3		7		2		1	5

Yesterday's Sudoku



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